

Law Enforcement News

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Be careful what you say

Unfounded statements by PIOs can be basis for liability, court rules

A recent ruling by the Louisiana Supreme Court that said public information officers can be held liable for unfounded statements they make in news releases may prompt administrators to draft stricter guidelines on what kind of information about criminal cases is divulged to the public.

"We're very, very concerned about the message the opinion sends to those of us in the business of communicating information about public agencies and their activities," said Lieut. Col. Ronnie Jones, the deputy superintendent of operations, planning and training for the Louisiana State Police, who was a defendant in the lawsuit that led to the Oct. 21 court ruling.

Jones, who is also a longtime instructor in police-media relations at the Institute of Police Technology and Management in Jacksonville, Fla., noted in a recent Law Enforcement News interview: "By their very nature, administrators are many times reluctant to give out information about what agencies do, and this would seem to buttress that position — to err on the side of conservancy."

The 5-2 ruling by the state's highest court exonerated Jones of any wrongdoing connected with the State Police account of its four-month investigation and subsequent arrest of a bingo-hall operator in a 1989 sting operation. Jones then served as chief spokesman for the agency.

Other officers who handled the press release or were involved in the investigation also were exonerated of wrongdoing by the court, which found they were protected by the privilege of their office and were not found to have shown reckless disregard for the truth of what they were told by colleagues about the case.

Gordon Trentecosta filed a defamation lawsuit against the State Police over a press release it issued about his arrest and comments about him made in an interview by Sgt. Kermit Smith of the agency's Charitable Gaming Di-

vision. Smith told a reporter that Trentecosta, who owned a catering hall he rented to charities, was running a large-scale illegal gambling operation and bilking customers.

Although Smith testified that he based his information on an investigator's comments about the way workers were paid, the court found that he had no reasonable basis for saying Trentecosta had cheated customers out of thousands of dollars.

The misdemeanor charges filed against Trentecosta have never come to trial, although his attorney has sought to have the case heard. The Associated Press reported.

"While we agree that law enforcement officers, whose duty includes charging persons with crimes, should be allowed to report the fact of a crimi-

nal investigation and an arrest without fear of a defamation action if the person is cleared of the charges, an officer cannot add additional injurious statements that the officer had no reason to believe were true," the court ruled.

"Such a restriction of the privilege should not have a chilling effect on the free reporting of criminal investigations and arrests, but should prevent occurrences such as in the present case, where the officer not only reported the investigation and arrest, but also reported facts pertaining to guilt that were not developed in the investigation."

The court found that Smith "did not obtain the information from any source, reliable or otherwise. He apparently used information about misuse of funds and added his own suspicions to from a sensational connection with the tar-

get of the investigation."

By making the statement with no basis and fact or in information "furnished to him from any source, Smith acted in bad faith and reckless disregard as to whether the statements were false or not," the decision said.

Justice Bemetta Johnson dissented, saying Trentecosta did not prove that Smith's statement was made with reckless disregard. "Because there was no proof of 'actual malice,' damages are improper," she wrote. The case has been returned to a state appeals court, which will consider damages, Jones said.

Although the ruling applies only to public information officers in Louisiana, it could grow to have national implications in the future. State Police Supt. Rut Whittington has requested

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Controversy lingers over Chicago early-warning effort

BrainMaker, a computer program that the Chicago Police Department had planned to use to identify behavior patterns that might lead to police misconduct, was more of a no-brainer, according to the city's powerful police union, whose objections to the so-called "early-warning system" led to its being shelved.

The program utilized artificial intelligence to identify traits or behaviors shared by nearly 200 officers who were fired for disciplinary reasons between 1988 and 1993, then identified patterns among current personnel who may themselves be at risk for misconduct.

Officers flagged by the system were to be offered counseling or other in-house services to help them deal with their problems, in the hope that early intervention would prevent them from engaging in brutality or other misconduct.

Beyond a couple of test runs, how-

ever, the department never fully implemented the system, which was announced by Police Supt. Matt Rodriguez during a widely publicized press conference in July 1994. It was shelved largely because of objections raised by the local Fraternal Order of Police. The Chicago Tribune reported.

The program was developed in-house, using as a platform an \$850 software program developed by California Scientific Software. A spokesman for the company said at the time that CPD's application of the software, which is most commonly used in finance and trading to predict market trends, bond ratings and stock prices, as well as in the medical and manufacturing sectors, was the first of its kind in the nation.

But its capabilities never really got past the testing phase, a CPD spokesman told Law Enforcement News recently. "At the time, the union said, 'Whoa, back up.' Basically, it hasn't

gone anywhere since that point," said Officer Patrick Camden.

Camden said that since scrapping BrainMaker, the department is monitoring officers "the old-fashioned way" — by having supervisors closely scrutinize those under their command. In the meantime, police officials are drafting an order that will set out guidelines on how to monitor effectively, he added.

FOP president William Nolan told LEN that the union's concerns centered around the Big Brother-like aspects of the program, which he said relied too much on personal data about officers — information that the union contended had little value as indicators of future problems.

"They wanted to throw things in like how many times an officer had a traffic accident, was it his personal car or squad car, are they married or single, how long they've been on the job and

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Where there's smoke, there's fired

Court agrees: On or off duty, smoking by cops is a Mass. no-no

A former Plymouth, Mass., police officer who was fired for continuing to puff away on cigarettes in violation of a nine-year-old state ban on the practice, has seen her effort to return to the job go up in smoke after the state's highest court upheld her termination.

In a ruling issued Oct. 21, the Supreme Judicial Court upheld the firing of Lynne Rossborough who was dismissed in July 1993 because she continued to smoke despite a statewide ban on smoking for both on- and off-duty public-safety employees, which was

passed by the Legislature in 1988 and applies to all employees hired after Jan. 1 of that year.

Rossborough, who had joined the force as a permanent, part-time officer in 1989, was initially slapped with a five-day suspension for violating the ban, then later terminated. Rossborough appealed the action to the Civil Service Commission, which overturned the action, but Plymouth officials took the matter to the Supreme Judicial Court.

Lynn Hebert, an attorney who represented Plymouth, told Law Enforcement News it was the first time the issue had come up in the

town because "to our knowledge, nobody who's covered by the smoking ban smokes. Nobody is out looking for smokers, but this was a blatant violation. She was smoking consistently in the cruisers, in the Town Hall — she was smoking in front of everybody."

Neither Rossborough, who according to court papers no longer smokes, or her attorney, Robert Straus, could be reached for comment. Hebert said Rossborough's violation of the law does not prevent her from seeking employment in the public-safety sector in the future.

But Patrolman Dana Goodwin,

president of the 80-member Plymouth Police Brotherhood, said the case should never have gone outside the department. "It was rather unfortunate that it came to that point. It could have been handled in-house," Goodwin told LEN.

Goodwin said he knew of no other public-safety agencies in the state that had fired employees who smoke. "I would say it's ignored — people look the other way," he said, adding he believes Plymouth officials wanted to make a "test case" out of Rossborough's violation of the smoking ban.

Around the Nation

Northeast



CONNECTICUT — Convictions for domestic abuse have quadrupled in the Fairfield Judicial District since the opening of the state's first domestic violence court a year ago. The district's conviction rate is nearly 30 percent, compared with 13.7 percent for the rest of the state.

MARYLAND — In light of more than 40 bomb threats to Anne Arundel County schools this fall, School Superintendent Carol Parham wants 16- and 17-year-olds who make bomb threats to be tried as adults.

MASSACHUSETTS — The Boston Police Department moved to new headquarters on Nov. 10, a \$70-million facility in Roxbury.

NEW HAMPSHIRE — Northfield Police Chief Scott Hilliard says truancy is such a problem for local police that the Winnisquam Regional School District should have a full-time truant officer. Hilliard said he lacks the manpower to handle tracking up to seven or eight students a day, many of whom commit crimes during school hours.

NEW JERSEY — State Police Det. Benny Matos, 35, was charged Nov. 7 with threatening his estranged wife and a male friend with a gun when he found them together at her residence.

Sixteen years after State Trooper Philip Lamonaco and Port Authority Officer William Perry were slain in the line of duty, their hometown of Roselle Park has honored them with a monument. Lamonaco was shot nine times in December 1981 by a pair of self-described "revolutionaries" wanted on bank robbery charges. Perry was gunned down in 1980 by a subway passenger who became enraged when asked to extinguish a cigarette.

Irvington Police Officer Darrell Lockett was suspended on Oct. 30, charged with assaulting seven people with pepper spray and a flashlight.

Terrance P. Farley, director of the state's Division of Criminal Justice, is returning to his former position as first assistant prosecutor in Ocean County. He will be replaced by Assistant Attorney General Paul Zoubek.

Princeton police officers who shot and killed an armed bandit holding a hostage acted properly, said Mercer County Prosecutor Maryann Bielamowicz. The incident began with a stick-up at the Sovereign Bank. As three officers searched the first floor, they encountered a gunman with his arm around a woman's neck and a .44-caliber revolver pointed at her head. Police had no choice but to fire, said Chief Thomas Michaud.

Newark Police Officer Dewey Sherbo 3d, 32, died Nov. 10 from injuries he received when his cruiser struck a tree during the pursuit of a stolen car.

Paterson Police Chief Vincent Amoresano was suspended without pay Nov. 4 after calling Mayor Martin G. Barnes a "liar and a thief" at a political

rally. The chief is accused of violating a rule barring officers from taking part in political campaigns.

NEW YORK — Ex-New York City police officer Francis Livoti was sentenced Nov. 7 to seven months in prison for using an illegal choke-hold on a 16-year-old boy in 1993. Livoti was acquitted of manslaughter earlier this year in the 1994 choke-hold killing of Anthony Baez. Despite the acquittal, Livoti was dismissed from the job.

New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani on Oct. 30 vetoed a bill that would create an independent body to monitor police corruption. Although the legislation had been revised to satisfy earlier judicial objections, Giuliani said it still posed an "intrusion upon the appointed powers of the mayor."

Two Syracuse boys, ages 8 and 10, were sentenced to 18 months "intensive probation" for sexually abusing a girl, 9, during an after-school detention.

A work force of 10 part-time inspectors has been marshaled to protect the safety of the estimated 6,000 automated teller machines throughout the state. In a related development, Assemblyman Scott Stringer (D-Manhattan) says he will introduce legislation in January to require the installation of ATM panic buttons for use in case of emergency.

A Westchester County jury on Oct. 24 found New York City Police Officer Richard D. DiGuglielmo guilty of murder in the shooting of Charles Campbell, 37, in a dispute over a parking space. Campbell's family has filed a \$100-million lawsuit claiming that DiGuglielmo was improperly trained.

Albany police officers William Bonanni, 30, and Sean McKenna, 28, were arrested Nov. 3 for allegedly beating a college student while off-duty. The attorney for the victim, 22-year-old Jermaine Henderson, said his client was beaten at a police garage while handcuffed, suffering a broken nose and cuts and bruises.

New York City Comptroller Alan G. Hevesi has refused to endorse a \$900,000 contract between the city's Police Department and I.B.M./CGI, a company that Hevesi's office said failed to deliver a \$2.5-million computer software system for tracking evidence, which was due three years ago.

Ramzi Yousef, an Arab electrical engineer, faces a life sentence following his conviction Nov. 12 for masterminding the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. An accomplice, Eyad Ismoil, 26, who drove the explosives-laden Ryder van into the building's underground garage, was also convicted.

Video cameras will soon be placed in New York City's Central Park, Washington Square Park and several housing projects in light of a 21-percent drop in crime in Harlem's Grant Houses since cameras were placed there in July.

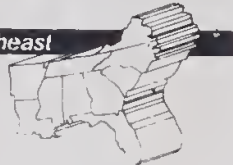
New York City's new \$155-million 911 dispatch system will be changed to remedy a problem which police say could endanger lives — the inability to hear other officers in the field when a 911 dispatcher is speaking. Twice in November, officers in distress called for help only to find that they could not be

heard by other police, sources said.

The New York City Police Department, firefighters, the FBI and other agencies participated in a mock disaster-preparedness drill in November aimed at seeing what would happen in the event of a chemical attack like the one in 1995 on the Tokyo subway.

RHODE ISLAND — Volunteers statewide distributed cards in November with a toll-free number aimed at helping victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Southeast



ALABAMA — Former Marengo County Sheriff Roger Davis was sentenced to 27 months in prison on Oct. 29 after pleading guilty to extorting money from a bonding company in exchange for steering business away from the company's competitors.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department has invested \$2 million in new cars and equipment for deputies, supervisors and county jail sergeants who will participate in a take-home patrol car program. The plan is expected to save thousands of dollars in overtime costs, in addition to boosting visibility and improving morale.

ARKANSAS — Warrants were issued Oct. 27 for Mulberry Police Chief Jim Freeman, patrol officer Jack Entekin, and reserve officer Anthony Keith on felony charges of first-degree mischief in connection with a fire that destroyed a building on July 3, 1996.

Hot Springs Police Chief Martin M. White Jr. plans to step down Jan. 2 from the post he has held since 1986 to assume a full-time teaching position at Garland County Community College. One of White's proudest achievements was the development of the department's educational incentive program. About 25 percent of Hot Springs officers are former students of the criminal justice program at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, where White previously taught. More than 50 percent of the department's personnel have at least two years of college.

FLORIDA — Federal prosecutors plan to retry former Justice Department official Michael Abbell and former federal prosecutor William Moran, after a jury deadlocked on four drug-related charges against the pair in October in a case involving their representation of leaders of a Colombian drug cartel.

GEORGIA — Atlanta's 54-member Ambassador Force was honored recently by business leaders for their work discouraging "quality-of-life" crimes. The civilian patrol, decked out in pith helmets and teal jackets, is funded by special taxes paid by property owners in the 120-block Downtown Improvement District. Business leaders say four categories of serious crime — burglary, larceny, assaults and auto theft — have fallen between the summers of 1996 and 1997.

LOUISIANA — A two-year, \$3.3-million Federal grant has been awarded to

New Orleans' Housing Authority to combat drug dealing and other crimes. The grant, one of 666 made to housing authorities nationwide, will be spent on preventive and proactive programs coordinated primarily by the Institute for Resident Initiatives, affiliated with Tulane University, in addition to supporting police substations at public housing sites.

MISSISSIPPI — Jackson Police Chief Robert Johnson resigned Nov. 3, citing the refusal of Mayor Harvey Johnson to address his long-term future. While Johnson has been chief for three years, his future has been question since the Mayor's election in June.

NORTH CAROLINA — The NAACP has asked that the Winston-Salem Police Department stop using pepper spray since a disproportionate number of those it is used on are black. Of 144 people sprayed in the past year, said the NAACP, 115 have been black. In October, Warmie Lee Patten, 36, died after being subdued with the gas while in police custody. Patten's death was the second in a month to involve an altercation with Winston-Salem police.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Ex-Sumter County Sheriff's Deputy Sammy Harrell was awarded \$41,000 by the state, and his brother, Glen, got \$50,000 and a letter of apology, after having been fired in 1995 because they owned a videotape officials deemed racist.

TENNESSEE — Murfreesboro officials say that police attendance at parole hearings has led to 31 of 41 felons being denied early parole.

Chattanooga police officers have begun sitting in marked patrol cars in front of known drug houses as part of a get-tough approach to illegal drug sales.

Retired Memphis police officer Jim Fortune has been named Germantown's new police chief. Fortune, 54, joined the suburban police force after leaving Memphis in 1991 following a 26-year career. He began as a patrol officer and quickly rose through the ranks until he made deputy chief earlier this year. Fortune, who was sworn in on Oct. 13, succeeds Eddie Boatwright, who retired after eight years as chief.

VIRGINIA — Police are pushing to have touch-tone pay phones in South Norfolk replaced with old-fashioned, rotary models so that drug dealers cannot use them to page their customers.



Midwest

ILLINOIS — A woman who had kept police at bay outside her home in Roby since Sept. 22 was finally captured Oct. 30 after she stepped onto her porch to inspect a bucket police had left there. Shirley Allen, 51, was shot with rubber bullets by a trooper hiding nearby, who saw what he thought was a gun in her hand. The object turned out to be a pair of scissors. Allen became a cause célèbre when she refused to leave her house for a psychiatric evaluation her siblings demanded.

State trooper Ern Hehl, an 11-year veteran, and a civilian pilot, George

Kurelic, were killed Oct. 30 when their helicopter crashed. Kurelic was a civilian employee of the Chicago Police Department. Investigators could not immediately say who was piloting the craft, or what caused it to crash.

Centerville Police Chief Curtis McCall got his job back Oct. 28 after Mayor Riley Owens decided not to veto a vote by the Board of Aldermen reinstating the Chief. Owens had fired McCall in a dispute over overtime.

State Trooper Anthony Millison was killed Oct. 28 when he slipped and fell over the right guardrail of Interstate 57 in Dixmoor. A 10-year veteran, Millison was directing traffic away from a series of accidents on an icy stretch of road when he moved to get out of the way of an out-of-control van and tumbled to his death.

A panel created to look into charges that Palatine police mishandled the investigation of seven killings at a Brown's Chicken & Pasta restaurant in 1993 suggested that teams of officers with special training be formed for major crimes. The panel concluded that suburban police departments are ill-equipped to deal with complex probes.

INDIANA — Anderson Police Chief Ed Leonard suspended 30 police officers for one day for watching two strippers perform a sex act at a Sept. 11 bachelor party. The party organizers were given two-day suspensions. Police, said Leonard, must be held to a higher standard of conduct.

Four current and former Indianapolis police officers will be retried on charges stemming from a brawl last year, in which drunken white officers allegedly hurled racial and sexual insults at passersby before starting a fight with a black motorist and a white friend who came to his aid. In October, jurors deadlocked in efforts to decide the fates of Paul Tuttle, Jason D. Hansman, Edward P. Brickley Jr. and Gregory Gehring. The incident cost then-Police Chief Donald Christ his job.

The State Police last month created a Bureau of Criminal Investigation that will focus on issue the public sees as top concerns — drugs, violence, and crimes against children.

KENTUCKY — A lack of staffing at State Police posts in Dry Ridge, La Grange and Madisonville has forced the reassignment of drug awareness and public affairs officers to road patrol. The switch is expected to be temporary.

MICHIGAN — An 11-year-old boy was charged in Oakland County last month as an adult in the murder of an 18-year-old. Nathaniel Abraham, who allegedly shot Ronnie Lee Green Jr. to death with a rifle, faces life in prison without parole. Abraham has a history of violence, including pulling a gun on fellow elementary school students.

Big Bay police agreed to pay \$175,000 to Clayton Root, whose home they mistakenly raided in search of drugs. The Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team admitted to having raided the wrong place.

A 10-month investigation by Detroit and Highland Park police and Federal agents was capped Oct. 27 by the ar-

Around the Nation

rests of 34 alleged members of the Vice Lords and the Black Gangster Disciple gangs on drug and weapons charges.

OHIO — A Hamilton County Common Pleas judge last month granted a motion to suppress a statement by an ex-Cincinnati police officer who told a superior that he had planted marijuana on a suspect more than 10 years ago. Former sergeant John Sess was indicted in August on charges of tampering with evidence and tampering with records after volunteering the information during his interview to become an agent with a regional narcotics squad. Without the statement, said prosecutors, they have no case. Sess was fired in May.

WEST VIRGINIA — A teen-age boy turned himself in to police Nov. 3 to face charges in connection with accidentally discharging pepper spray in a Wal-Mart store. The store was closed for about eight hours Nov. 2, and 32 people were sickened and had to be treated at area hospitals. The boy, Glenn Matthew Cox, faces a battery charge.

WISCONSIN — The conditional release of a sex offender was revoked Oct. 24 when a judge found that Charles R. Burns had violated the conditions of his parole. Burns's release to a halfway house in Kenosha was picketed by residents who found out about his crimes from police under a new state notification law. Burns had served 16 years on a 1980 conviction for abducting and robbing two women in Kenosha, and beating and raping one of them.

put on routine administrative leave Oct. 22 while officials investigate his fatal shooting of a motorist. The victim, 30-year-old Gerald T. Lehn, was stopped by Johnson after the deputy noticed him driving erratically and found that Lehn's license plates did not belong to his vehicle. Lehn fled and led Johnson on a chase that continued until Lehn crashed in the woods, jumped out, and started running. Instead of raising his hands when Johnson caught up with him, said authorities, Lehn came at him and made a grab for Johnson's gun. Johnson shot him twice in the chest.

Despite the fact that their city has one of the lowest rates of violent Part I crimes for cities of its size, St. Paul residents say crime is their main concern, outranking the economy, schools and taxes, according to a Star Tribune Minnesota Poll published in October. A Police Department analyst said an expanding police role throughout the city and an increase in nuisance and property crimes may explain some of the concern. Media coverage may also be a factor in public perceptions, experts say.

NEBRASKA — The Omaha School District is considering the use of drug-sniffing dogs to search student lockers and cars for drugs. Assistant school superintendent Tom Harvey said the searches could take place after hours and at the request of principals. Districts would not be charged for the services of dogs that can sniff out marijuana, heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine.

Omaha's conviction rate for drunken drivers — approximately 98 percent — may make it the toughest place in the nation when it comes to prosecuting DWI. Only 76 of 3,600 people arrested in 1996 escaped prosecution, struck a deal or were acquitted.

Omaha City Councilman Frank Brown has questioned why a police cruiser's camera was turned off during an incident that led to the death of 33-year-old Marvin Ammons. Brown said a high-ranking police official told him that a camera had been turned off prior to the Oct. 26 incident. Ammons, say police, was reaching for Officer Todd Sears' weapon when the officer, in fear for his life, shot him. On-board cameras were found not to be operating in two other incidents as well. Videotape failed to record a police pursuit on Oct. 3 in which a 9-year-old boy was hit by a fleeing car, and on Aug. 7, a fatal struggle between police and Guadalupe Vallesillo went undocumented.

A Federal judge in Omaha ruled Oct. 29 that a man can be convicted of traveling across state lines for an appointment to have sex with children, even if the children do not exist. The ruling stems from a case in which a Minnesota doctor answered a fictitious ad placed by Omaha police offering a sexual encounter. U.S. Senior Judge Lyle Strom initially refused to accept Dr. Jeffrey Goodnuff's guilty plea, saying he was not convinced that intending to have sex with minors was enough for a conviction, since the children were not real. Strom, however, subsequently determined that intent to commit the act is all that is needed, citing a Federal murder-for-hire law in which mere intent can lead to a conviction.



ARIZONA — Narcotics agents, acting on a tip from hunters, found some 17,000 marijuana plants in a remote canyon near Bumble Bee in October.

Radawna Michelle, who coordinated crime prevention programs at Arizona State University, was arrested Nov. 7 and charged with burglary, possession of burglary tools and theft.

COLORADO — Former Nederland town marshal, Renner Forbes, 68, who is now paralyzed and living in a nursing home, confessed in October to murdering a 19-year-old hippie in 1971. The victim, Guy Goughnor, went by the street name of Deputy Dawg and got into trouble that included public urination, drinking well into the night, stealing laundry from clotheslines, and generally flouting authority. The last time he was seen alive was when Forbes pulled him out of a bar and threw him in the back of his patrol car. Authorities say Forbes then drove Goughnor to a remote area of adjacent Clear Creek County and shot him once in the head. Goughnor's body was found a month later in a canyon where Forbes used to hunt elk. Detectives who headed the original investigation say Forbes wanted to clear his conscience.

Some 33 new State Patrol troopers are expected to be patrolling the highways by March, after the General Assembly approved funding.

The state will appeal a District Court judge's ruling that the state cannot revoke the driver's license of a Native American if his arrest for drunken driving was on a reservation. The judge said Federal law exempts Native Americans from civil jurisdiction if they are on tribal land.

NEW MEXICO — A metal detector, bulletproof glass and a police substation will be installed in St. Vincent Hospital in Santa Fe because of fears of violence. Emergency room staff confiscate between five and 10 weapons a week, including guns and knives.

The Albuquerque Police Department will extend its Safe Streets program to include 18-wheelers. The program is credited with reducing "road rage" incidents and traffic deaths by getting motorists to slow down and obey traffic laws.

The deputy chief of the State Police, John Cordova, resigned in November rather than accept a demotion to captain and a pay cut of about \$14,000. Cordova was accused of participating in political activities at work.

State District Court Judge Paul Onuska of Farmington has been assigning juvenile defendants to read such books as "The Little Engine that Could" and "The Little Red Hen," saying the books are filled with moral themes essential to becoming productive citizens.

OKLAHOMA — Pittsburg County Sheriff Bennie Durant has asked county commissioners for a February referendum

on a half-cent sales tax that would allow him to hire at least 10 new deputies and raise salaries for current deputies. The tax would also pay for patrol of rural school zones, expansion of the investigative division and implementation of the community sentencing act.

TEXAS — Richard McLaren, leader of the separatist group Republic of Texas, was sentenced Nov. 4 to 99 years in prison, and his top lieutenant to 50 years, for plotting the April 27 abduction of Joe and Margaret Ann Rowe. The kidnapping led to a weeklong standoff with police that involved 300 state troopers and Texas Rangers.

The North Central Texas Narcotics Task Force has seized \$97,150 in cash since the end of July, along with 10 pounds of marijuana, eight ounces of methamphetamine, and a "cold cook" laboratory that included three-quarters of a gallon of methamphetamine oil. The task force includes the Denton and Grayson county sheriffs' departments, and police departments in Lewisville, Highland Village and Roanoke.

UTAH — In the 16 months since a law took effect requiring inmates to pay all or part of court filing fees, the number of lawsuits filed has fallen to 114. In the 16 months prior to the law, inmates had filed 158 suits.

Salt Lake City police officer Matt Larson was cleared in October by a police internal affairs probe, which said he was justified under city and state policies in shooting a loose dog that attacked him while he was jogging.



ALASKA — Voters will decide the fate of a year-old juvenile curfew law in Anchorage that has resulted in 3,000 minors being cited for infractions, and over \$226,000 in uncollected fines.

CALIFORNIA — Under a plea agreement, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Henry Myers, 30, pleaded guilty Oct. 7 to punching and pointing his service revolver at a man undergoing emergency treatment at a hospital. Myers agreed to resign from his post and avoid jobs in law enforcement or security while under court supervision. Myers faces up to one year in jail and a \$100,000 fine when sentenced Jan. 5.

A technical malfunction caused some 600 Los Angeles police officers to lose communication with the city's 911 operators for about three hours on Nov. 10. Officials said no emergency calls came during the blackout.

Superior Court Judge Steven Z. Perren on Oct. 27 denied a request to throw out more than 600 disputed drunken driving cases, saying he found no intentional effort to conceal problems at the Ventura County crime lab. Defense attorneys sought dismissal of the cases after the lab continued testing despite failing a state proficiency test. However, Perren did allow some defendants who pleaded guilty or were convicted to contest their cases under certain circumstances.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Hownig, 32, was shot to death Oct. 30 by a man on a bicycle. Hownig was tailing the defendant, Enrique Parra Duenas, 25, after witnesses said he went by waving his arms wildly. Without warning, Duenas allegedly pulled out a handgun and fired. Hownig, who was wearing a bulletproof vest, was hit several times in the body and once in the neck.

IDAHO — The FBI wants to increase its local staff in Coeur d'Alene from three to five agents, reportedly due to population growth. Special Agent Mike Dillon in Boise discounted a connection between staff increases and concerns about terrorism.

NEVADA — Sgt. Scott Ferguson, an 18-year veteran of the Las Vegas Metro Police Department, was charged Nov. 10 with two misdemeanor counts of indecent exposure for allegedly exposing himself outside two local motels.

Christine Binion, a Las Vegas police officer who taught drug awareness to children, resigned Nov. 6 after failing a drug test. A man being questioned about a stolen car told police he had smoked marijuana with the officer when she was off-duty.

OREGON — The Rev. Timothy Mockaitis will receive \$25,000 from Lane County to settle a claim that his civil rights were violated when jail officials taped a conversation between him and a murder suspect in 1996. A court ruling barred prosecutors from using the communication.

WASHINGTON — Gun-control advocates were outspent and outstrategized by pro-gun lobbyists who successfully defeated a Nov. 4 ballot initiative that would have required safety tests for handgun owners and trigger locks on handguns. The National Rifle Association reportedly spent nearly \$3.5 million in its effort to thwart the initiative, which many political experts in the state said was too complicated for voters. Proponents also failed to secure the support of law enforcement groups — said to be a key factor to winning gun-control initiatives.

Emerson Pinault Yumul, 21, and Marvin Jay Francisco, 22, in October became the first to be charged in King County under the state's 1995 "Hard Time for Armed Crime" law, which allows the use of the death penalty for those convicted of gang-related or drive-by slayings. Yumul and Francisco allegedly killed two men and gravely wounded three female passengers who were waiting for a friend to help them repair two flat tires. Francisco is in custody; Yumul is believed to have fled to Saipan.

The 52-year-old head of a northern Idaho militia group, Vern Merrell, was sentenced to two consecutive life terms plus 64 years for bombing abortion clinics and robbing banks in Spokane Valley in 1996.

Faye McCollum, 39, the state's only violent female sex offender, was moved in late October to the Twin Rivers correction center in Monroe, where she will be the only person held in the 20-bed unit. McCollum had been the only female among 50 sex offenders at the state's Special Commitment Center.



IOWA — Inmates at the Men's Reformatory in Anamosa last year produced 12,000 pages of Braille text. After a year of study, an inmate can be certified as a Brailleist through the Library of Congress.

With school districts apparently finding it difficult to get teachers for driver's education classes, Gov. Terry Branstad has called for the use of retired Highway Patrol troopers to bolster the programs.

A state Board of Parole report released in October found that fewer than 20 percent of the state's convicts are returned to prison for violating their parole. Of some 18,020 granted parole from 1989 to 1997, only 3,437 were reimprisoned.

MINNESOTA — Administrative law Judge Allen Giles on Nov. 6 fined the City of Minneapolis \$1.5 million and awarded damages totaling \$300,000 to two female police officers in a gender-discrimination case. Police officials shredded job reviews, favored men in promotions, and ignored sexual harassment complaints, Giles found.

A sculpture depicting slain St. Joseph police officer Brian Klinefelter was unveiled Oct. 27. Klinefelter was killed after stopping armed robbery suspects in 1996.

Hennepin County Sheriff's Deputy Gary Johnson, a 19-year veteran, was

Transit policing in transition

LA transit police closes up shop, with LAPD & sheriff's office to take over duties

Having completed final contracts that will move its 380 officers to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the city Police Department, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority Police Department was due to close its doors last month, ending 19 years in business.

The police and sheriff's departments, using many of the former MTA officers for the task, will take over enforcement operations for the estimated 1,200 bus lines criss-crossing the county, as well as the two lines of the city's subway system that are now in service. The transit system provides service to about 1.5 million riders daily.

The agency dissolution was the culmination of nearly three years of planning to shift transit enforcement duties from the MTA to the sheriff's and police departments, in a cost-cutting measure approved by the Transit Authority's board of directors.

"The board decided that the Transit Police drained resources from the parent agency, which isn't equipped or has the resources to do police services," said MTA police spokesman Lieut. Kit Armstrong. "So they decided to eliminate it, and contract with the LAPD and sheriff for law enforcement services."

The MTA will pay the LAPD \$23.5 million to deploy police officers along bus lines running in the city, as well as the subway's Red Line. Armstrong said the Sheriff's Department will be paid \$17.3 million to police bus lines running through unincorporated areas of the county and the subway's Blue Line.

In an arrangement that marks the first time the police and sheriff's agencies have joined together in a long-term partnership, 60 percent of the MTA officers were assigned to the LAPD, while the remaining 40 percent were absorbed by the Sheriff's Department. The two agencies will operate from a central command post at Gateway Center, the MTA headquarter

"A unique opportunity for a partnership between the two largest police agencies in Southern California."

ters near Union Station.

The transfers to the Sheriff's Department were to take place on Nov. 2, while the transfers to the LAPD were to be complete by Nov. 23, Armstrong told Law Enforcement News last month.

Not all of the former MTA officers were accepted by the agencies. Following background checks, 45 MTA officers failed to meet LAPD standards, while the Sheriff's Department disqualified 10 from coming on board, Armstrong said.

But most of the officers were to be assigned to the two agencies at their former MTA ranks. Each agency will get two of the four MTA captains, while Police Chief Sharon Papa, who has headed the MTA force since 1990, was expected to join the LAPD as a commander.

Cmdr. Garrett Zimmon was named to head the LAPD's new Transit Group, which will oversee transit enforcement operations. Most of the MTA officers will be assigned to the Transit Group, while those in the upper ranks will be assigned to undergo "mentoring training, to get them up to speed on procedures, policies and operations," Zimmon told LEN last month.

Zimmon said the move is part of an ongoing effort to "cut down the number of law enforcement agencies operating in the city." He predicted that the arrangement "will provide more quality service to citizens because we've removed a layer of police organization and improved communication," and noted

that the contract allows all LAPD officers to respond to calls for service generated from MTA facilities.

Currently, LAPD officials are reviewing MTA training and tactics, some of which will undoubtedly form the basis of LAPD training for future transit officers. It's a mutually agreeable arrangement that will enable both groups to work together for a common goal, Zimmon said.

"We need them to help us learn about policing rails and bus lines, and we have to teach them about LAPD policy, procedure and tactics," he said.

"We see this as a unique opportunity for a partnership between the two largest police agencies in Southern California. We also see it as a partnership that will provide a level of security and serenity for bus drivers and train operators, provide a level of security and reduce fear, thereby helping to increase ridership," said Zimmon, a 24-year LAPD veteran.

The Sheriff's Department will assign about 175 sworn officers to transit patrols, the bulk of them former MTA officers, according to Capt. Marc Klugman, a 23-year veteran of the agency.

"Our goal is to incrementally assimilate all of the transit officers into the Sheriff's Department in the period of about a year. They'll change uniforms Nov. 2, and they'll all be deputy sheriffs, but we will begin moving them into other operations and giving them additional training over the course of the next year" before assigning them to transit duties, Klugman said.

Sheriff's department officials conferred with MTA counterparts to devise a 40-hour rail safety course. "They'll be a lot of ongoing training, such as how to operate on the right of way, and how to deal with rail systems. We have special weapons teams that have to look at tubular entries, how best to deal with that environment. We'll also be looking at activities touching on quality-of-life issues and handling other misdemeanors."

Into the Florida sunset:

Miami's troubled drug unit gets the boot

Donald Warshaw may be out as Miami's Police Chief following the recent election of a new mayor, but before he was forced to resign he ordered the dissolution of the Police Department's elite undercover narcotics unit, which has been rocked by the shooting of an unarmed homeless man in June, and by allegations of evidence-planting, missing property and perjury.

Warshaw said the Street Narcotics Unit, which has suffered downsizing and budget cuts in recent years, had been tarnished by the arrest and suspension of some of its members in connection with the non-fatal shooting on June 26 of Daniel Hoban in Coconut Grove.

"Is it politics? No. Is it damage control? Yes," said a candid Warshaw on Oct. 1. "Obviously, the shooting precipitated the change.... There's a thou-

sand people in this department and they've done remarkable things, and I don't want them to be tarnished over a case that involves a small group of individuals.... I want to move on from this."

The Chief cautioned that most of the SNU's members were excellent officers who would be reassigned to three crime-suppression teams that will investigate crimes and conduct undercover operations, with a new emphasis on narcotics stings. But they'll be under closer scrutiny from supervisors than before, he said.

[On Oct. 17, the Drug Enforcement Administration announced it would agree to Warshaw's request for its assistance and send 33 agents to back the Police Department's anti-drug operations. The agents will be used in citywide operations for an indefinite

period, said Billy Mitchell, who heads the DEA's Miami field office.

[Added Warshaw: "We're talking about an increased presence on street corners, phone booths, in cracks and crevices of Miami streets. They'll make substantial numbers of arrests for sale of possession."]

The Chief's announcement that he was dissolving the drug unit came the same day that Dade County prosecutors prepared to charge a third SNU officer in the Coconut Grove shooting. State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said Officer Jorge Castello, who shot Hoban in the thigh, was expected to surrender to authorities.

Two other SNU officers, Rolando Jacobo and Oscar Ronda, face perjury-related charges connected to the case.

An investigation of other allegations that officers stole and planted guns at

two other shooting scenes is nearly complete, Rundle added.

Hoban was shot after he waved a Walkman-type personal stereo at officers, who claimed they thought it was a gun. Investigators suspect that one or more undercover detectives planted a .45-caliber pistol to cover the fact that Hoban was unarmed when he was shot. The "throwdown" gun had been seized illegally by some of the same officers during an undercover drug raid in 1996.

The incident, which some police have dubbed the "robbery by Walkman" case, also has resulted in the suspension of Officer Jesse Aguero, who was assigned to SNU. He had not been criminally charged as of early October.

All four officers deny wrongdoing, contending that they're the victims of a witch hunt against undercover officers. "I argued that the state was setting up a perjury trap," said Bill Matthewman, an attorney representing Castello. "They have sprung their trap.... We will fight it vigorously."

The unit, which was begun in 1985 to counter an explosion in drug-traffic-ing in Miami, devised drug enforcement strategies that since have been emulated by police departments nationwide, including mass drug dragnets and reverse-sting operations to snare buyers. They earned the nickname "the jump-out boys" for their practice of cruising neighborhood streets in unmarked cars looking for drug activity. When they spotted drug transactions, they'd quickly jump out of their unmarked cars, seize drugs from dealers and makes as many arrests as possible.

The unit, which focused its efforts on a plague of crack dealing in Liberty City, Overtown and Coconut Grove, had as many as 50 members by the late 1980s, by which time it had conducted

over 7,000 sting operations. At the time of its dissolution, the unit was down to 14 members, a number Warshaw said was not enough for it to remain effective.

Skyrocketing costs and controversial cases have dogged the unit in recent years. In 1988, six detectives were accused in the beating death of an alleged crack dealer. Four of them were convicted on Federal charges of obstruction of justice, and Officer Aguero, who is suspended and under investigation in the Hoban shooting, was suspected of helping to cover up the fatal beating.

Warshaw's decision caught many by surprise, including the unit's commander, Lieut. Jack Griffin. "I am shocked and disappointed," he told The Miami Herald. "Personally, I'm not thrilled and don't understand. It means a tremendous amount to me, and I'm worried about the people it affects."

Griffin said it is unknown what effect Warshaw's action will have on future anti-drug operations. "Right now we don't have the answers to what happens next," he said. "Who knows? Maybe the Chief's ideas to replace it might be great."

Lieut. Tony Rodriguez, a former SNU commander who is president of the Miami lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, questioned why the whole unit was being disbanded when only a few of its members have been accused in the Hoban shooting. "Is that what we're saying now, that the whole unit is the problem?" he told The Herald.

Richard Sharpstein, an attorney who is representing several street narcotics officers subpoenaed in the shooting, said the decision to scrap the unit was a "total overreaction" to bad publicity. "It's another blow to morale in an already battered department," he said

Dodging a DWI checkpoint may not be as suspicious as it seems

Police cannot pursue motorists who make a lawful U-turn to avoid sobriety checkpoints, even if it means letting drunken drivers avoid capture, a Pennsylvania Superior Court ruled on Oct. 15.

The ruling stems from a 1993 Montgomery County case in which a 19-year-old man was arrested and convicted of drunken driving after he approached a roadblock and made a legal U-turn. After being pursued and pulled over by a state trooper, the motorist replied that he made the turn because he "didn't want to be hassled by the police."

The motorist, Joseph Scavella, now 23 and living in San Diego, was granted a new trial by the unanimous decision

Pennsylvania court upholds legal U-turn by driver who "didn't want to be hassled."

of the three-judge panel.

Judge Vincent A. Cirillo, writing for the court, acknowledged that the ruling could mean fewer drunken-driving arrests, but wrote that "mere avoidance of a roadblock does not give rise to reasonable suspicion."

Scavella was found guilty of underage drinking and sentenced to 30 days to 23 months in prison and fined \$300.

First Assistant District Attorney Bruce L. Castor Jr. said his office plans to appeal the court's decision.

"It's a little bit like police coming to the scene of a man in a trenchcoat eyeing up a bunch of school children, and when he sees the police officers, he runs away," Castor told The Philadelphia Inquirer. "Surely we want our police officers to be able to chase him down and see if he's wearing anything under that coat."

"Common sense and logic dictate that the guy who makes a U-turn is probably intoxicated," noted another prosecutor, Bucks County District Attorney Alan M. Rubenstein. "But we can't operate under that assumption any longer."

Louisiana SP academy grilled in report

The Louisiana State Police Academy needs to develop safety and training standards for its staff in the use of ammunition and firearms, a high-ranking officer needs to be hired as academy director, and troopers need better instruction in dealing with the line-of-duty deaths of colleagues, according to a study requested by Gov. Mike Foster.

The study, released Oct. 15, was prepared by Louisiana State University in the aftermath of the fatal shooting of a probation officer last year during a State Police training exercise. State

Trooper Leonard Lewis, an instructor in charge of the "high-risk stop" training scenario, shot David Glen Seymour in the chest. Lewis's attorney said his client had forgotten that he had reloaded before the shooting.

Seymour's death appears to be the only shooting of its kind that has occurred at the academy, although Deputy Superintendent Ronnie Jones said he recalled two earlier incidents in which recruits were shot with blanks, which can cause burns when fired at close range.

Among the findings in the 150-page report was that the academy suffered from an "instability of leadership" which has "hindered the development of a first-rate training facility and programs." Among its two dozen recommendations, the report calls for the appointment of a high-ranking officer — a major — as academy director. A civilian with a strong academic background, the report said, should be made deputy director.

Since the academy opened in 1982, it has had 12 directors, all of them captains.

The State Police Superintendent, Col. Rut Whittington, told The Associated Press that he agreed, but added that he is satisfied with the leadership

of Capt. Mike Futch, who was named director earlier this year.

The report said the academy should also develop safety and training standards for the use of ammunition and firearms by staff. Additional training, it said, should also be provided for troopers once they are out in the field, as well as for officers.

A practice of renting space to outside organizations, the study found, detracts from the academy's own training. Instead of relying on self-generating funds for its \$2.9 million budget, the study said, the academy should seek state money.

Researchers also recommended that the academy better train police to deal with the deaths of colleagues in the line

of duty, and offer surviving families every possible service.

The Seymour family has accused the academy of withholding information about the shooting and trying to cover it up, according to The AP, although Jones said help was offered "every step of the way." A state grand jury declined to indict Lewis, but the victim's family has filed a civil suit against Lewis and the State Police.

State Police officials indicated that the recommended changes could prevent similar incidents in the future. Whittington said many have already been implemented, adding that training, which he called "the heart and soul of what we do," has not been given the emphasis and support it needs.

MSP rethinks limited duty for pregnant cops

Massachusetts State Police officials are formulating a policy specifically addressing the issue of restricted duties for pregnant officers, after four female investigators filed complaints with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over the agency's temporary modified-duty policies.

An MSP spokesman, Capt. Robert Bird, said that officials agreed to devise and implement a policy specifically addressing concerns of pregnant troopers and investigators, who had been barred from having contact with the public, wearing their uniforms or driving state-issued vehicles because of liability concerns.

After a meeting on Oct. 17 with State Police officials, including some of the investigators who had filed the complaints with the EEOC, Massachusetts Public Safety Secretary Kathleen O'Toole gave the agency 30 days to come up with separate policy outlining the kinds of duties pregnant employees can carry out.

In the meantime, the women who filed the EEOC complaints "are allowed to remain on full duty as long as their obstetricians feel they can safely remain so," Bird told Law Enforcement News.

Four women, three of whom are pregnant, contended that investigations they were working were jeopardized because of last-minute shift changes and duty restrictions placed on them

because of their conditions. In their complaints to the EEOC they asserted that an "essential task list" issued by the State Police last April, which was intended to serve as a standard for determining when pregnant or injured troopers had to stop full-duty work, included dozens of requirements that did not relate to their investigative duties.

"It just didn't apply to my situation," said Lisa Butler, a homicide investigator who was put on "no-duty" status after she refused to comply with the restricted duty status. She was removed from full duty less than two weeks after she notified her supervisor that she was three months pregnant.

Bird defended the agency's temporary modified-duty policy, saying it did not single out pregnant troopers, but instead applied to all officers, male and female. "We are going to benchmark with other state agencies across the country to see what they do," he said.

Oorothy Schulz, a professor of police science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, said that unlike many big-city police departments, few State Police agencies have specific policies governing the duties of pregnant troopers. "They, along with small police agencies, tend not to because the percentages of women in those agencies are so small. They either handle it on a case-by-case basis or after something occurs," she said.

Deputies' use of pepper spray on protesters raises eyebrows

FBI looks into possible civil rights violations in northern California

An ugly confrontation between Humboldt County, Calif., authorities and demonstrators protesting the cutting of ancient redwoods has led to a Federal investigation into possible civil rights violations by deputies who applied pepper spray directly into the eyes of non-aggressive protesters.

The incident began on Oct. 16 when the four women chained themselves together using metal pipes and staged a sit-in in the Eureka office of Republican state Senator Frank Riggs, refusing to leave. On a videotape made by Humboldt County law enforcement, deputies are seen grabbing the women, pulling their heads back while they are immobilized, and rubbing the cayenne-pepper spray into their eyes with cotton swabs. The protesters can be heard screaming and pleading with officers not to use the spray.

Mark Harris, the protesters' Arcata-based lawyer, obtained the tape, which has been shown widely on the state's television news programs and on at least one network. The women were held for five days in jail and charged with trespass. They have filed a civil

suit in Federal court.

An investigation by the FBI has been launched to determine whether county law enforcement agencies violated the same civil rights laws under which Los Angeles police officers were prosecuted and convicted for the beating of Rodney King.

The sit-in was just the most recent standoff of many between regional authorities and anti-logging activists over Headwaters Forest, an old-growth redwood tract owned by the Pacific Lumber Co. Congress has approved spending \$250 million to buy and preserve 7,500 acres of the forest, but protesters believe an additional 60,000 acres should be spared from logging.

Riggs, who was not in his office at the time, believes law enforcers acted properly, asserting that the protesters stormed into his office wearing hoods and dumped a tree stump on his floor. The were "belligerent and extreme outsiders," he said.

Humboldt County Sheriff Oennis Lewis and Eureka Police Chief Arnie Milsap contend that using the pepper spray, especially rubbing it in the eyes on cotton swabs and not spraying it, was the least risky way to remove the protesters. Cutting through the metal pipes,

they said, could have caused injury.

Officials say that deputies thought swabbing the eyes would eliminate the chance that the women would be overcome by fumes from the spray. For some people with specific health problems, pepper spray can be dangerous. One unarmed suspect in Novato, Calif., suffered an asthma attack and died after being subdued with the substance.

But one of the women, Vernell Lundberg, 17, said she began to hyperventilate. "The fumes and vapor still get to you," she told USA Today. "My respiratory system tightened up."

County residents have had mixed reactions to the methods used by law enforcers. Some sympathized with police who, they say, were trying different methods of breaking up the demonstrations.

"These protesters are a pain in the butt," said Betty Capps, who has run a local restaurant for 30 years. "We're working hard trying to make a living, and people are trying to tell you what you can do with your property. The economy here is slow enough as it is."

But a 27-year-old roofer, Dave White, said: "I'm pro-logger, but no way did the cops have a right to do that. It was definitely excessive force."

Payback time: Ky. trooper must reimburse local PD for training

A former police officer in Elizabethtown, Ky., who quit the Police Department there to join the State Police must repay training or equipment costs spent by the city to bring him on the force, the state Court of Appeals ruled recently.

Jeffrey Haynes has been a trooper assigned to the State Police's Elizabethtown post since 1991, when he took the job after serving only 13 months of a three-year contract he signed with the City of Elizabeth. He was ordered to repay about \$4,000 plus about 12-percent interest.

"Our argument was that he wouldn't have gotten that job but for getting this training," City Attorney Oeobrah Shaw told Law Enforcement News.

The city withheld Haynes's last paycheck for \$1,280, and demanded nearly \$3,000 more to cover the costs of training and other expenses associated with his employment. Haynes balked at the payments, and the city sued. The Hardin

County Circuit Court ruled in favor of the city, and the trooper's attorney took the case to the appeals court.

Mark Miller, who represented Haynes on behalf of the local lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, argued that the contract was unenforceable under the state's Wage and Hour Act.

"There was a statutory section that said no agreement which contravenes any of the provisions of the Kentucky Wage and Hour Act is enforceable," Miller told LEN. "The Court of Appeals somehow overlooked my arguments in that regard and enforced the contract anyway, saying the penalty provisions were not excessive, that they reasonably measured the loss to the city and, therefore, were not unconscionable or excessive."

The three-judge appeals court ruled on Oct. 10 that cities can enforce "liquidated damages" clauses in contracts with its employees, saying that in Haynes's case, the city "reasonably

sought to protect itself" against a sudden exit of police officers.

"Without the liquidated damages clause, the city risked paying for training, salary, benefits, equipment and bond, merely to have an officer choose, as here, to change employment to another police agency, which then obtains the benefit of the officer's academy training without having to absorb its costs," said the opinion written by Judge Oaniel Guidugli.

Shaw, the City Attorney, said the ruling produced a "precedent-setting" opinion that could apply to other jurisdictions in the state.

But Haynes's Louisville-based attorney disagreed, saying the ruling applies only to the case at hand. "It's an unpublished decision, so it can't be cited as precedent," said Miller. "Therefore, it can't be used anywhere else in the state. If I had litigated the issue here [in Louisville]...then I might have a different decision."

CITY OF CHICAGO POLICE SUPERINTENDENT

The Chicago Police Board seeks qualified applicants for the position of Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. The Superintendent serves as Chief of a Department with 17,000 employees (13,500 sworn) and an annual budget of \$730,000,000. The 1997 salary is \$127,000.

Applications are available from the Chicago Police Board, 1121 S. State Street, Chicago, IL 60605, or by calling 312-747-6268 (fax: 312-747-2491).

The City of Chicago is an affirmative action/EEO employer. Women, minorities and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Price of friendship

Citing a yearlong string of "events and circumstances" that included several line-of-duty deaths, a high-profile brutality incident, a corruption scandal and the revelation of his decades-long friendship with a convicted felon, Chicago Police Supt. **Matt Rodriguez** stepped down Dec. 1 from the post he has held since 1992, ending a 38-year police career.

"If one person — or the events associated with any one person — begin to stand in the way of the progress of our department...then that individual needs to recognize that fact and move on," Rodriguez said at a Nov. 14 news conference in which he announced his retirement.

"Some of these events and circumstances have been unfortunate and violent, including the tragic deaths of far too many Chicago police officers," said the 61-year-old Rodriguez. "Some...have been the result of the Police Department's own efforts to weed out excessive force and corruption. Some...have been reflected on my own judgment — including the selection of my personal friends and acquaintances."

Rodriguez was alluding to the most recent controversy to dog him — the revelation of his 30-year friendship with a convicted felon, in violation of Rule 47, a rarely enforced departmental rule that forbids police employees from associating with anyone "known to have



Matt Rodriguez
Guilt by association

been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor, either state or Federal, excluding traffic and municipal ordinance violations."

At issue was Rodriguez's friendship with **Frank Milito**, who pleaded guilty to mail fraud more than 10 years ago and served nine months in prison. Rodriguez said Milito told him he had been questioned in connection with the unsolved murder in 1987 of an oil company executive in suburban Prospect Heights.

"I did not willfully — as perhaps as preposterous may sound — actually, willfully, think I was violating Rule 47," Rodriguez said. "You have an associate for quite a few years. I didn't look on him as Frank the Felon. He was a friend."

While Mayor **Richard Daley** was reportedly angered by the revelation, he said the decision to step down was Rodriguez's. Daley, who had administered the oath to Rodriguez on the same day in 1992 that a flood devastated the city's Loop business district, offered nothing but praise for his top cop, saying Rodriguez did a "tremendous job, just in community policing. We're in the forefront of community policing throughout the country. There's no one even close."

Two weeks before his announcement, Rodriguez got a vote of no-confidence from the Fraternal Order of Police, which represents most of the department's 13,000 officers, for his handling of a police brutality case and his support for Daley's plan to make 30 percent of promotions to sergeant based on merit instead of exam performance. Last December, seven officers assigned to the department's Austin District were indicted on corruption-related charges. Over the summer, several off-duty officers died under questionable circumstances and a district commander was demoted for authorizing a memo deemed offensive to Hispanics.

Using a baseball metaphor to describe the string of trying events in the past year, Rodriguez observed: "Sometimes it's like you're batting .385 or .400, but you strike out three times in one inning. That seems to be a period that we're running through now."

Daley said the search for Rodriguez's successor is "wide open." The Chicago Police Board has statutory authority to screen candidates and present three finalists to the Mayor, who has the final say on the nomination.

FDP president **William Nolan** told Law Enforcement News said Rodriguez's retirement was not entirely a surprise to the union. "We figured that

the Superintendent was going to retire, and we were anticipating that soon," he said, adding that he regrets Rodriguez had to resign under a "so-called cloud."

"We certainly don't feel that a man who had done as much as he has in his 38 years as a police officer in the city of Chicago...should have to go out under a cloud on an archaic type of rule violation," Nolan said. "That's really not the reason he's leaving. There's really a multitude of things that have happened over the last year. They all kind of built up."

Key concerns

An insider's knowledge coupled with outside administrative experience is apparently what gave Key West, Fla., Police Officer **John Kirvan** the decisive edge over rival candidates he beat out in October for the agency's top job.

Kirvan, 44, was named police chief by City Manager **Julio Avel**, filling a slot that had been vacant for seven months. He has been with the Key West department for 2½ years. Prior to moving to Key West, Kirvan was chief of the Volusia County Beach Police Department, covering a coastline that includes Daytona Beach.

Kirvan said that before any changes are made, he will first evaluate the Key West PD from top to bottom, and seek input from the public. "I think that's very important," he said.

The department has been without a chief since March, when Avel placed then-chief **Ray Peterson** on administrative leave while he looked into accusations of incompetence. Eventually, Peterson was demoted to captain and an appeal of that decision was settled out of court.

"I needed someone who would join us running," Avel told The Miami Herald. "I believe we're fortunate to have someone who has knowledge of the city and the Police Department, and knowledge of the problems we have what needs to be changed."

Chief's challenge

Marietta, Ga., Police Chief **Bobby D. Moody**, the newly sworn president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, plans an ambitious agenda for the 15,300-member group, including developing a model training



Bobby D. Moody
Focus on success

program for new police recruits and a President's Leadership Conference that will focus on ways to improve the odds of success for current and future police chiefs.

Addressing hundreds of colleagues at the IACP annual conference in Orlando, Fla., on Oct. 29, Moody said he has long believed that the work of police chiefs "requires that we be fully aware of the importance of people; that we develop a clear vision for the future; that we do our very best, always to build cooperation in our communities and among one another; and always be certain that we know the stakes involved in making our decision."

Moody said he would focus his term on developing programs geared to ensure success for both current and future chiefs — "a course of action that, if followed, will provide a road map for those who aspire to be police chiefs...."

Toward that end, Moody will preside over the first-ever President's Leadership Conference, which will bring together law enforcement and private-sector professionals to discuss ways to achieve and enhance success.

Moody also announced the development of a model training program for new recruits called "Every Officer a Leader." Moody described the program, which will be developed in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as an effort that "could very well revolutionize the way basic, mandated training is offered throughout the world. The effort means that we will begin today to develop and prepare police leaders of tomorrow."

The IACP's worldwide outreach efforts will continue, Moody added, including a State Department-funded exchange program that will bring U.S. chiefs together to form training partnerships with police officials in Russia, the Ukraine, the newly independent Baltic states, along with agencies in the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

The IACP will continue building its data base of use-of-force incidents in the United States, Moody added, and will hold a Justice Department-funded summit on hate crimes next year "to develop a multidisciplinary approach to finding ways to bring an end to these horrendous crimes."

Moody was appointed Marietta police chief in 1996. Previously, he had served 18 years as chief of the Covington, Ga., Police Department, during which time the agency was the first in Georgia to receive national accreditation. He had joined the Covington agency as a patrolman in 1975. Moody has a bachelor's degree in justice administration, a master's in criminal justice, both from Georgia State University, and is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

On board

Former Albuquerque, N.M., Police Chief **Joseph Polisar**, who handily won election as sixth vice president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in late October, says he expects to listen to and learn from his fellow board members over the course of his yearlong term.

"I intend to do a lot more listening than agenda-building," Polisar told Law

Enforcement News last month, saying veteran board members provide a wealth of information to rookies like himself. "There are many people on the board who have been there for a while. [Some of them] have been mentors and have helped guide me."

Polisar recently became the only executive board member without a job. Just over a week before his election, he learned that Mayor-elect **Jim Baca** would not be retaining him as chief, a post he's held since June 1994. Polisar's last day on the job was Dec. 1.

The lack of job shouldn't hurt Polisar's vice presidency, unless he fails to land a new position by June 1998, when he must meet a filing deadline for advancing to the fifth vice president's slot next year.

Polisar, 45, said he was disappointed by Baca's decision to appoint his own police chief. "You spend 21 years with an organization...it's not something that happens lightly. It certainly has an impact on you emotionally." Still, he said, he is "extremely gratified for the opportunities that the Albuquerque Police Department has afforded me."

"I'm proud as I can be to have worked my way through the ranks and to have been chief of the department where I've spent my entire career. I leave it knowing that I've had a positive impact not only on the men and women of my department, but on the quality of life on the citizens of this community."

Polisar added that he is currently weighing several job offers.

(An interview with Polisar begins on Page 8.)

He gets his man

It was never in doubt, but now it's official: **Thomas C. Harwood** is one tough cop.

The 29-year-old Grant Park, Ill., police officer, who was able to arrest four teen-age suspects despite severe injuries suffered after being deliberately struck by a speeding vehicle driven by one of them, was recently named Police Officer of the Year by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Parade magazine.

The award, which recognizes police who display outstanding heroism in the line of duty, was presented at the IACP's annual conference in Orlando, Fla., on Oct. 28.

Harwood, who joined the police force in the Chicago suburb nine years ago, was on patrol in the early-morning hours of Sept. 29, 1996, when he spotted two "suspicious-looking vehicles" speeding through the town. He attempted to stop the vehicles — a Mustang and a Suzuki — after a license-plate check indicated that the Mustang was stolen.

The Mustang, which was driven by 19-year-old **James Stanford** and had two female teen-age passengers, pulled over. But the Suzuki, driven by 17-year-old **Joshua White**, sped off. Two blocks away, White made an abrupt U-turn, then headed back toward Harwood at more than 50 mph. His passenger, **Tim Roach**, 19, who allegedly took the vehicle without his parents' permission, had jumped out of the vehicle and fled.

Harwood, who was preoccupied with the three suspects in the Mustang, didn't see the Suzuki coming straight

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at him. "I didn't have time to get out of the way or get my gun out," he told Parade.

The vehicle slammed into the officer, knocking him backward onto the rear panel of the Mustang, pinning him between both vehicles. Harwood's left forearm got caught in the Suzuki's door mirror, resulting in multiple fractures. The officer bounced off the Mustang's trunk several feet into the air and landed on his back in the road. The Suzuki then slammed into Harwood's patrol car, pushing it backward 16 feet.

"The first thought I had was, 'I can't let these guys get away,'" Harwood said. Pulling his gun and ordering the Suzuki's dazed driver out of the vehicle, Harwood tried using his left arm to get off the ground. That's when he noticed the limb "was in shreds."

Harwood managed to make it to his cruiser to radio for help. Holding them at gunpoint, the officer ordered the two drivers to lay down spread-eagled on the pavement, then cuffed them. "Why aren't you dead?" one of them asked incredulously. Officers who responded to Harwood's distress call arrested Roach an hour later.

Over a year later, Harwood remains deskbound on restricted duty as he continues his slow recovery. He's undergone surgery on his arm six times and lost a testicle that was severely injured when he was slammed against the Mustang. But, he says, "I can't wait to get back to work full-time."

As for the assailants, White is serving 10 years in prison for attempted murder of the officer. Stanford is scheduled to be tried early next year on stolen-vehicle and attempted murder charges. Roach was not charged, and the two females received no jail time in exchange for their testimony against Stanford and White.

Nine other police officers received honorable mention from the IACP and Parade. They were: Det. Sgt. **Cleveland J. Pinkney Jr.**, Sumter, S.C., Police Department; Trooper **Barry G. Washington**, Texas Traffic Law Enforcement Service; Sgt. **Gregory P. Cameron**, Maryland State Police; Police Officer **John Peters**, Boynton Beach, Fla., Police Department; Det. **Paul Montaño**, Pima County, Ariz., Police Department; Officer **Ricardo V. Alston**, Baltimore Police Department; Officers **Kendall Witt** and **Gary Miranda**, Santa Ana, Calif., Police Department; Det. **Homer M. Pennington**, Baltimore Police Department; and 2nd Lieut. **Barry Ross**, Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

Kelly's the one

Raymond W. Kelly already has plenty to do as the Treasury Department's Under Secretary for Enforcement, which gives him direct supervisory authority over such agencies as the U.S. Customs Service, the Secret Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. In October, his workload got a little bigger.

For the next three years, Kelly will serve as Interpol's vice president for the Americas, following his election to the post at the organization's 66th General Assembly, held in New Delhi, India.

Kelly will focus on fighting transnational crime over a region that encompasses the United States, Canada,

Mexico and South and Central America.

"His distinguished law enforcement credentials will bring to Interpol the experience and leadership skills essential to fulfill its mission to combat transnational crime," said Kelly's boss, Treasury Secretary **Robert E. Rubin**.

Kelly, a former New York City police commissioner, previously served as delegate to Interpol's Executive Committee.

FBI lab firestorm

The selection of a physicist with no forensic experience to head the FBI's troubled laboratory set off a firestorm of protest in October and accusations that the bureau had reneged on a written promise it had made to choose a new director based at least partially on that very qualification.

FBI Director **Louis Freeh**, Attorney General **Janet Reno**, and other Justice Department officials have defended the appointment of **Donald Kerr Jr.** to the lab post. Kerr, 58, is a physicist-engineer who headed the government's Los Alamos National Laboratory from 1979 to 1985. He also served as acting assistant secretary of energy during the Carter Administration.

Kerr defended his own credentials by noting that all of the scientific skills used by FBI lab personnel are in place at Los Alamos, too. "When you scratch at forensic science you find chemists, metallurgists, biologists and other disciplines applying their scientific skills to forensic examinations," he said.

And Freeh has pointed out that Los Alamos has done research for the bureau, and that Kerr has served with FBI officials on a National Security Council committee on terrorism.

But critics of the appointment have not been appeased by that logic. Senator **Charles Grassley** (R-Iowa) blasted the move, as did groups of government

whistle-blowers and criminal defense lawyers.

"This is prima facie evidence that the American people cannot trust what the FBI tells them," Grassley said. "The people and Congress have been misled. Public confidence in Federal law enforcement is once again undermined."

At issue is the FBI's promise that it would find a person with both an "outstanding academic and practical background in forensic science." The vow was made in response to a 500-page report on April 15 by DoJ's Inspector General, **Michael Bromwich**, which uncovered flawed scientific work by the world-renowned lab, and inaccurate testimony given in major cases, including the Oklahoma City bombing. Bromwich recommended disciplining five lab agents and hiring a new director with a background "preferably in forensic science."

Troubles at the lab were brought forward by **Frederic Whitehurst**, a whistle-blowing scientist who has been on paid administrative leave from the

enforcement."

"It's a shock to me," said **Santo Franzo**, director of the Connecticut chapter of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, which cited Poynter's research in successfully lobbying the state Legislature for a ban on hand-held radar. "I worked very closely with Gary here and in other states on the radar issue. I'll miss him as a friend, and as an officer concerned about the safety of others."

"Almost single-handedly, Gary collected a mountain of statistics on radar guns and cancer. He put the issue on the map," said **Louis Slesin**, publisher of the newsletter *Microwave News*, which has focused on issues related to electromagnetic radiation.

"It's still a very, very important issue to police officers, and he's the one who brought a national focus

to it. To lose him at such an early age is a real tragedy for police officers everywhere," said **Jim Pasco**, executive director of the National FOP.

The radar-cancer issue wasn't the first time that Poynter had a broad impact on police practices. **Jim Roberts**, executive director of the Ohio Troopers Coalition, recalled that Poynter's study of possible health hazards arising from rotating shifts led the OSHP to adopt a steady-shift policy. Many agencies have since used his research, which became Poynter's master's thesis, to shape their own policies, he said.

"He'll be sorely missed by the troopers in Ohio," Roberts said. "He really enhanced the safety of police officers in general through his research. Gary had the attitude that it's best to err on the side of safety."

Born in Hamilton, Ohio, Poynter earned a bachelor's degree in education from Morehead State University in Kentucky and a master's in criminal justice from Xavier University in Cincinnati. In addition to his wife, Poynter is survived by his mother, **Arlene**, and a daughter, **Christy**.

[A scholarship is being set up in Poynter's memory. Contributions should be made payable to: Promise Keepers Scholarship Fund, c/o Bethany United Methodist Church, 6388 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd., Middletown, OH 45044.]

Giving heart & soul to a cause

Ex-Ohio trooper Gary Poynter, traffic radar trailblazer, dead at 51

Gary P. Poynter, the former Ohio state trooper who shook up the police world with his research into possible health hazards associated with the use of traffic radar devices, died last month at age 51.

Poynter, who retired from the state Highway Patrol in 1995 after 15 years of service, suffered a massive heart attack at his home Nov. 21 in Liberty Township, Ohio. Earlier this year, Poynter had begun a new job with the Artimis Transportation Management System in nearby Cincinnati, where he served as a liaison between the highway engineering firm and law enforcement agencies located near Interstate roads that ring the city, said his wife, **Elaine**.

Poynter began his groundbreaking research nearly a decade ago after hearing anecdotal reports of radar-using officers being stricken with rare cancers and other illnesses. The culprit, he theorized, was long-term exposure to non-ionizing radiation from microwaves emitted by traffic radar devices, particularly the hand-held models known familiarly as radar guns. The results of Poynter's research appeared in *Law Enforcement News* beginning in November 1990, in a two-part article titled "The Hidden Hazard of Traffic Safety."

"All of the officers who have been exposed to traffic radar for the last 30 years were members of a great experiment — human experimentation without informed consent," he wrote. "Had police officers been apprised of the possible hazards of traffic radar, it is doubtful many would have volunteered for the experiment."

Poynter, who was not himself a cancer victim, received little backing or encouragement from the law enforcement establishment and was frustrated by government foot-dragging on the issue. He then launched a maverick effort to educate police officers about the potential danger, traveling around the country on his own time and at his own expense to address various groups. He also compiled a data base of officers who believed their life-threatening illnesses were linked to radar use, many of whom have since died.

Science has yet to prove a causal relationship between radar and illnesses such as testicular and

thyroid cancer, but the evidence gathered by Poynter was compelling enough to prompt scores of police agencies to rethink their policies on radar. Even his own agency, though resistant at first, decided to place radar antennas outside vehicles to limit exposure to potentially hazardous emissions.

In August 1992, Poynter appeared before a U.S. Senate subcommittee to testify about the radar-cancer issue. Although lawmakers promised to seek funding for a large-scale scientific study of the problem, thus far no such research has been commissioned by the Federal Government, which Poynter said frustrated him.

"He may have been frustrated, but there were a lot of people who benefited from his concern and involvement," said **Dewey Stokes**, former president of the National Fraternal Order of Police. "I hope by the good grace of God that Gary realizes now how much good he did."

Stokes remembered Poynter, who served as research officer for the FOP, as "almost possessed" by the issue. "For a lay person who had no scientific background, the research he did and the accuracy of his work...he was just tenacious about it," said Stokes, who is now a Franklin County, Ohio, commissioner. "We're blessed in our society with people like Gary who have the fortitude to pursue issues when they know they're right. He performed a great service to law



Gary Poynter testifies before a Senate subcommittee in 1992 on the possible health hazards from traffic-radar use. (Photo: Jacob R. Clark)

It was bound to happen sooner or later. Law Enforcement News spots another fascinating police executive, arranges and conducts a comprehensive Q&A interview, and before the interview can be published, fate intervenes, and for reason or another the chief is suddenly an ex-chief.

Such was the case, it turned out, with Joseph Polisar, the Police Chief in Albuquerque, N.M., at the time this interview was first conducted. Polisar was, by most measures, a comer — young (just 45); the top cop in his state's largest city; 20 years on the job, including three as chief; an odds-on favorite to win election as sixth vice president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (which he did in late October). He was also controversial. Only a few months earlier, a controversial report on civilian oversight of the Police Department and police misconduct stirred up a local hornet's nest of charge and counter-charge that has taken months to abate. On top of that, Polisar himself became the focus of an allegation that he mistreated a motorist in a traffic incident. Polisar was cleared, and no charges were filed, but the incident still stung.

Still, Polisar had been presiding over a relatively upbeat period for Albuquerque policing, with a substantial, yet carefully managed increase in the size of the department, and the expansion of its programming in several areas, including gang and drug enforcement and the import of new ideas and new technologies, such as non-lethal weapons. Many of these imports he credits to his travels around on IACP business, which gave him the opportunity to absorb the best of what was being tried in other jurisdictions.

As noted, however, the roof abruptly caved in for Polisar on Oct. 16 when a Mayor-elect who was voted in just nine days earlier told the Chief that his services would no longer be required after Dec. 1. For LEN, it meant quickly arranging a follow-up interview (albeit one in which Polisar would prove far more short-spoken than before), in order to add the proper closure to a conversation that had already been prepared for publication. For Polisar, it meant brushing off and updating his résumé, packing up his office and preparing to get on with a new phase of his professional and personal life — a life that had already taken him from his native New York (Brooklyn-born and Long Island-raised), which he left because he grew tired of waiting for appointment to the fiscally-starved police departments in the area. His quest for an entry-level opportunity in law enforcement took him to New Mexico, where he joined the Albuquerque PD in 1977 and saw his hoped-for police career take off with a flourish. He became a lieutenant in just eight years, a captain in 15, then Chief just two years after that — which he admits was a gamble, because taking the top job meant putting his yet-unvested pension in jeopardy.

Recent events notwithstanding, the gamble paid off, for it gave Polisar the platform from which to launch a host of new programs, host the 1994 IACP conference, and reap an armful of awards for human rights efforts and other achievements. (One of those, a 1996 People's Choice award as "Favorite Elected Official" seems to speak to his level of public popularity in the city.)

Polisar, who holds a bachelor's degree in management from the University of Phoenix and is a graduate of both the FBI National Academy and the FBI National Executive Institute, would appear likely to have little trouble landing on his feet in a new police chief's job somewhere. Young, smart, motivated chiefs are always in demand, and the number of big-city vacancies hardly seems to be easing any time soon. Still, it's the "somewhere" aspect that bristles just a bit, for moving on with his career may mean leaving his adopted hometown of Albuquerque. He has until June to land a new job if he wants to keep his spot in the IACP hierarchy. Only the foolhardy would bet against it.



A LEN interview with

Joseph Polisar, former police chief of Albuquerque, N.M.

"I believe I have. . . a good track record. I don't think I'm going to have a lot of difficulty finding a job. The question is where."

LAW ENFORCEMENT NEWS: When last we spoke, you were still the police chief of Albuquerque — a situation that is no longer current. What has transpired since that time to turn you into a former chief?

POLISAR: Well, a new mayor was elected on Oct. 7, and he takes office on Dec. 1. On Oct. 16, he informed me that he would like to surround himself with his own people.

LEN: During the mayoral campaign, did any of the candidates give an indication that they would be looking for a new chief if they won?

POLISAR: The candidate who won never said one way or another.

LEN: What does the future hold for you after Dec. 1?

POLISAR: According to the IACP constitution, I have until June to find a job as chief or relinquish my seat on the executive board. As we speak, I am actively pursuing options and leads for employment. I believe I have good qualifications, a good track record. I think my marketability is pretty good. I don't think I'm going to have a lot of difficulty finding a job. The question is where.

LEN: Has the mayor-elect solicited any input from you in terms of a successor as chief?

POLISAR: I have not been asked, and I have not volunteered.

LEN: Any idea whether your successor will come from inside or outside?

POLISAR: It's hard to say. The mayor-elect has stated publicly that he intends to do a national search. That would indicate there's a good possibility that the next chief will come from the outside. We've stated, however, that there is an enormous talent pool within the Albuquerque Police Department. There are several people in this agency who are capable of taking this job.

Overview of oversight

LEN: Earlier this year, there was a considerable uproar over a report over police misconduct and civilian oversight thereof in Albuquerque. The report, by Samuel Walker and Eileen Luna, called the police oversight system dysfunctional, saying citizens were alienated from the process and discouraged from filing complaints. Your Mayor, Martin Chavez, said that while he was unsettled by the "offensive, alarmist and biased" tone of the report, he nonetheless reacted rather favorably to the recommendations, which he said were moderate and tended to enhance the system....

POLISAR: Walker and Luna say a lot of things in that report, some of it very complimentary to the department. To be honest with you, though, the thing that I was concerned with in the report was not their discussion of the oversight system because I agreed with all 10 of their recommendations on oversight. What concerned me the most was the fact that they stepped outside the scope of their contract to talk about fatal police shootings. I think the comparisons they used were faulty, and I think Bill Geller would be the first one to say that. In his book on police use of force, he cautions that trying to do comparisons of police agencies and their shootings is dubious at best. So that was more my concern.

LEN: Mayor Chavez seemed to act with uncommon speed in implementing many of those recommendations. Now that several months have elapsed, how are those reforms going? Are there

“Over the 21 years that I’ve been in this town, I don’t think The Albuquerque Journal has gone out of its way to be kind to my department. However, I understand. . .that the local media are not supposed to be cheerleaders for police agencies. . . . That’s not their role.”

changes yet to be implemented — or some that will never get off the ground?

POLISAR: We’re in a period of transition in the city right now. We have a mayoral election occurring in about 20 days, and the incumbent has chosen not to run for a second term. We have seven people who are running for mayor, including the current City Council president and vice president. But just to back up, of the 10 recommendations they made, the ones that I could effect as Chief of Police have been done. There are only a couple that I have any control of as the Chief. For example, making information available to the public about how to file a complaint. We have gotten new brochures out and put them in fire stations, community centers and libraries. I’ve got a show on the government television station that is being played over and over and over again to educate the public on how to file complaints against the department or its officers.

LEN: Is overhauling Internal Affairs also underway?

POLISAR: We have just contracted with a vendor to initiate an early warning system similar to the ones used in Miami or Metro-Dade. We should have that on line and operational by November. So we’ve acted immediately on the things that I had control over as Chief of Police. Some of the other things are not moving quite as quickly simply because nobody knows who the next mayor is going to be.

Complaints, anyone?

LEN: What do you feel was wrong with the information available to the public on how to file a complaint? Was it simply not enough? Was it incorrect? Incomplete? Hard to find?

POLISAR: I think it was an education process. It was the Albuquerque Police Department’s policy, for the longest time, to let the public know how to complain against a member of this department, civilian or sworn. But you know, you get comfortable. We had brochures, and sometimes they would be out on the counters of the substation, sometimes they weren’t. It wasn’t a priority, and I’m the first to admit that. So this was a criticism that I took to heart. We’ve tried very hard since this report came out to educate the public on how to file complaints when they’re not happy with the service, whether it’s an attitude complaint or a use-of-force complaint or anything in between.

We’ve done our brochures both in Spanish and English, and we’ve made it a point to get those brochures in as many public facilities as possible, not just Police Department substations. We’re talking about city libraries, we’re talking about senior centers and community centers, fire stations, just about every conceivable city structure. Somebody from our department actually goes around and checks to make sure that these things are still being kept available to the public. Then I went and did a television show on the government-access channel with my captain of internal affairs and the deputy director from our department, which actually took people through the process: This is how you file a complaint, this is where you can file them. That show is being shown on a continuous basis on the government channel.

LEN: Does making more of this kind of information available to the public perhaps preordain that there will be an artificially induced spike in the number of complaints against police?

POLISAR: Sure, and we’re experiencing that. I haven’t gotten a breakdown on it, but I would say it’s mostly attitude, like “The officer towed my car.” But we anticipated the increase, simply because it’s been proven that that’s what happens when a department actively goes out and solicits the citizens to tell us what we’re doing wrong.

LEN: Did you alert the political powers that be that such an increase was a possibility?

POLISAR: Oh, you bet. In fact, I was watching it close enough so that if the spike doesn’t settle and we continue to have an increased number of complaints, I’m ready to increase the resources and staffing level of my Internal Affairs Unit to take care of it. I don’t want the detectives and sergeants assigned to that unit overwhelmed to the point where they’re not doing quality work due to increased workload.

LEN: Have you noticed any change so far in the proportion of complaints that are either substantiated or deemed unfounded?

POLISAR: Actually, that’s one thing that I think the Albuquerque

Police Department can feel very proud of. I think we’re sustaining complaints, meaning we’re finding against the officer, better than 30 percent of the time, which is much higher than the national average. I think that speaks volumes about how we take care of business.

LEN: How well does that go over with the Albuquerque police union?

POLISAR: It’s funny. You talk to some activists and they’ll say that it’s like the fox guarding the hen house, that we’re not taking care of business. But if you ask the police union president, you’re going to hear that this administration is probably cracking the whip harder and more frequently than any past administration or chief. So there’s a balance. The truth is probably somewhere in between. I would welcome an in-depth comparison with any department in the country. I think it would show that we are not afraid to take care of business.

LEN: Under one past administration, that of Chief Sam Baca in the late 1980s, it was a policy that lying by an officer was grounds for being fired. Talk about cracking the whip....

POLISAR: There’s a court case out there now that speaks to that issue, claiming that, you know, one or two bites of the apple is OK. Well, my position is the same as Sam’s, and that’s the position we have always taken in our department. If a police officer does not have his or her integrity, they really don’t have anything. If a police officer gets tagged with being a liar, how can that officer stand up in a court and enforce the laws and prosecute criminals when their very integrity is in question? So I’m sorry, but I agree. There are always exceptions to the rule, but it’s strictly on a case-by-case basis.

Good feeling in the gut

LEN: In terms of the more serious strains of misconduct, how would you compare the situation in Albuquerque to cities of comparable size, either statistically or perceptually? Is it generally better or worse?

POLISAR: This is just an opinion on my part, because I don’t know that I can really answer the question, but I’m convinced

“You talk to some activists and they’ll say. . .that we’re not taking care of business. But if you ask the police union president, you’re going to hear that this administration is probably cracking the whip harder and more frequently than any past administration or chief.”

that we have less misconduct. We’re in real good shape in Albuquerque, and I believe that with my heart and my soul. Have we had those kind of instances? Sure. But I think our record speaks for itself. We have prior chiefs who have terminated officers for brutality. In fact I’ve got a case now that I have appealed to district court on an officer that I terminated and that the previous chief terminated for excessive force, for beating somebody about the head with a nightstick or flashlight. My predecessor, Chief Bob Stover, fired the individual, he appealed it, and then I became chief in the interim. The Personnel Board said, “You know, Chief, we think termination was too excessive, we think a 60-day suspension is more in line.” So we took the officer back, and within a year the officer did the same thing. So I terminated him. The hearing officer upholds my termination, says it’s appropriate. The officer appeals to the Personnel Board, and the board says, “You know what? We think termination is too excessive; we think the 60-day suspension should be imposed again.” I chose to appeal that decision to the district court, and that’s where it sits now. The judge will decide whether I have to take this officer back. But that’s the kind of thing that doesn’t get picked up on by the media or by activists. I mean, it’s been reported....

LEN: On page 43, the lower left corner?

POLISAR: Yes, but a use-of-excessive-force accusation would be front page, 6 o’clock news lead stories. Here the department’s trying to do the right thing and it gets buried. I’m not crying in my beer, but it’s a fact of life. And that kind of thing occurs across this country; it’s not unique to Albuquerque.

LEN: Do you think The Albuquerque Journal gives a more or

less balanced presentation of life and policing in Albuquerque?

POLISAR (laughing): You’re asking the Chief of Police to take a shot at the biggest daily newspaper. But I’ll stick my neck way out. Over the 21 years that I’ve been in this town, I don’t think The Albuquerque Journal has gone out of its way to be kind to my department. However, I understand very well the media’s role in a democracy. I understand that The Journal and the rest of the local media are not supposed to be cheerleaders for police agencies, and they’re not supposed to be in bed with the chief, if you will. That’s not their role. Now, The Journal has complimented our department on some occasions, and I’m very grateful for that. On the other hand, on some occasions I think they’ve been pretty harshly critical when the Department didn’t deserve that kind of a spanking.

LEN: Do you or other members of your department make any extra effort to court the media, to show them a friendlier or more honest side of policing?

POLISAR: In the three years I’ve been Chief, I have visited the editorial board of The Albuquerque Journal on a couple of occasions, along with some of my staff, explaining the vision of the Albuquerque Police Department, where it is we want to be five or 10 years from now, and what we’re doing to improve services to our community. I also try to give them information in a very timely fashion that is sensitive to their deadline needs. I’ve been very accessible, even giving the media my home phone number. Information is very important. We could have the greatest technology in the world, but the bottom line is, 9 times out of 10 we solve crimes because of what citizens tell us — and the only way for citizens to get that information to us and to know what we’re looking for is by me using the media. So I think that the media’s role is watchdogging, but also complementing how we serve our community. So it’s critical that we have a good relationship.

The straight and narrow

LEN: What factors contribute to what you’ve described as a lower than average level of serious police misconduct? Is it proactive, for example, built on selection and training, or more reactive and discipline-oriented — or perhaps some combination

of things in the middle?

POLISAR: It’s a combination of a lot of things. I believe with my heart and soul that the Albuquerque Police Department is one of the finest police agencies in the country. We have an outstanding Police Academy. We have a very good system of monitoring the training that we provide our officers. We have continuous training going on in our academy for all of our employees. We also have a good internal reputation of not allowing that type of activity to occur. We have an ex-Albuquerque police officer sitting in the state penitentiary right now for pulling bank robberies. That case was investigated and made and prosecuted by this department — and that’s not unique. We have a history of doing that. If we have a bad cop, that’s no more offensive to anybody than to the people who wear this uniform, because that bad cop has tainted all of us. So I think the training, the fact that we prosecute and discipline bad cops, all of that plays into our culture, and makes me comfortable in saying that we enjoy a lesser degree of that type of misconduct than other cities.

LEN: That’s your impression. What about the public’s perception of its department?

POLISAR: It depends on the public that you’re talking about.

LEN: There’s at least a small segment of the public — a local citizens’ group — that’s not too thrilled with you or the department....

POLISAR: Sure, but you’re going to find that in any city, not just in Albuquerque. Every 18 months to two years the Univer-

Continued on Page 10

Interview: Albuquerque's Joseph Polisar

Continued from Page 9

sity of New Mexico does a Citizens' Satisfaction Survey of the Albuquerque Police Department. This is a think tank, an academic institution that has no connection to the Albuquerque Police Department. The most recent one that came out shows that the vast majority of the people in this community think the Albuquerque Police Department is doing a great job. You're not talking to a small group of activists that have a certain agenda. You're talking to a broad cross-section of the citizens of this community.

Oversight times two

LEN: Generally speaking, as a police chief, how do you feel about not one but two outside entities looking over your shoulder — the Advisory Board and the Independent Counsel — with respect to matters of policy, discipline and internal affairs?

POLISAR: I am not opposed to the civilian oversight of my Department by any stretch of the imagination. It depends on your definition of civilian oversight. What we have here in Albuquerque, we've had by ordinance since 1986 or 1987. The Independent Counsel reviews our citizen police complaints and all of our internal cases — and we generate more internal cases than we have citizen complaints. By that I mean internal complaints that we generate ourselves against our own employees, like a sergeant initiating a case against an officer or a lieutenant initiating something against a sergeant.

LEN: Or a police officer complaining about a sergeant?

POLISAR: You bet. And we have more of those than we have citizens' complaints. So the Independent Counsel reviews all of those. He also reviews all of our use of force, including our police shootings. He reviews the entire case and comes to his

she's made some comments that are not based on fact, but are more emotional. As far as police shootings go, Luna and Walker were comparing apples and oranges. And that's not their expertise.

We have Bill Geller coming in here to help facilitate a two-day meeting of people from a good cross-section of our community, to look at a very volatile issue — the police use of deadly force. We're going to approach it from two respects, the first one being what we can do better as a department and as a city to deal with the use of force, and secondly, how we can approach the inevitable controversies that arise when we do use deadly force. I've got members of the ACLU, the City Council, the Public Safety Advisory Board, the African-American community, the Hispanic community, the Native American community who have committed to this. These are people who are movers and shakers in our community, and they are not cheerleaders of the Albuquerque Police Department by any stretch of the imagination. They're coming to the table with a healthy attitude of wanting to do what's good for this community. If that means changing something, we'll change it. I think it's a credit to our department that we would, entertain doing something like this.

LEN: We understand that there is a data collection and analysis program now underway in Albuquerque called "Not Even One," which focuses on children being killed by firearms. What need compelled the creation of this project?

POLISAR: The University of New Mexico Medical School spearheaded that, I think. Basically it's a program of education and prevention to try and keep kids from getting killed by guns and keep guns out of the hands of kids. And I'm talking about horrific things such as what happened to a police officer's kid here 10 years ago or so. He went home from work and hung his gun belt on the table for a second, and his young child killed himself accidentally. Accidental deaths by kids, either killing

sustained over the long run, past the next election?

POLISAR: I think that's where chiefs of police have a unique opportunity in this country to speak out and be heard, because no one can use a bully pulpit better than a chief of police on an issue like that. We're constantly approached by elected officials across this country, at the local, state and national levels, for our input on legislation. What we need to do is force the elected officials who have the power to make this long-term commitment to listen to us on things that may not be as sexy as putting cops on the streets. It's real sexy for a politician to say, "I'm going to put 100 more cops on the streets of Albuquerque." It's not sexy to say, "I'm going to put half a million dollars in education and prevention and long-term commitments in the community. That's a long-term financial and resource commitment you have to make. There are studies all over this country that say that the DARE program's worthless, that police departments ought to get out of it because an analysis showed that it has no statistically significant impact on whether kids are going to use drugs or not. My answer to that is, that's fine, but I really don't give a rat what your statistics show. I've got 20 officers in my department who do nothing but teach DARE full time in our schools. If nothing else, they're providing positive role models to our youth. These kids have seen these cops in a different environment; we're not just jacking up their big brothers and taking their dads to jail. If we don't do those kind of things, provide positive role models for our youth and give them the guidance that they need in those critical years, we're missing the boat in this country. We're paying for it right now in my city because we stopped doing after-school initiatives 20 years ago because "we didn't have the money." Now we're paying for it because we brought up two decades of kids who didn't have any direction. The only direction they got was from the gangs.

LEN: You're also running the Gang Resistance Education and Training program — GREAT — aren't you?

POLISAR: We're not just lovey-kissy here; I've got a balance. I've got 20 officers who are full-time gang unit officers, who do nothing but hook and book the 3 or 4 percent of the kids who are shooting at each other, dealing drugs and drive-by gang-banging.

I see my job as a balance. It would be real easy for me to use this analysis of the DARE program not being significant in affecting kids, and say, "I'm just going to do away with it and have those 20 officers do nothing but enforcement action against the gang-bangers." It would be real easy to do, and there would probably be a lot of people in this community who would say "Great!" But I've seen firsthand the light in a kid's eyes dealing with a cop in a classroom setting, or at a ball game. I'm convinced it's worthwhile, and till proven differently, I'm going to continue to do what I think is very important for a police department to do.

Good politics, bad policy?

LEN: Juvenile curfews are another approach currently enjoying fairly wide popularity. In fact, a recent report claims a 5-percent drop in juvenile crime in Albuquerque during curfew hours. The ACLU is all over this issue, saying that the statistics are fudged and that the curfew itself goes beyond the bounds of reasonability. And, of course, they're suing.

POLISAR: The ACLU did take the city to task on this issue and the judge just ruled last week that our curfew ordinance is unconstitutional, and ordered us to stop enforcing it. And when we appealed to get a restraining order to allow us to continue enforcing it while we appeal to the higher court, and the judge refused. We're going to appeal the decision to a higher court, but for all intents and purposes we're not enforcing it any more.

I disagree with comments the ACLU made about the curfew being good politics but bad policy. I think it's good policy, and I'll tell you why. I grew up 30-some years ago in a strict home environment. On a school night I wasn't out of my house unless it was a school activity that my parents took me to and picked me up from. On weekends I had a deadline: you're going to be home at 11 o'clock or whatever, and God save you if you're not. Then as a country, with the Me, Me, Me 70s, the pendulum slipped so far the other way that in cities across this country we're now dealing with activities that are beyond our scope to deal with. But it all goes back to the simple family unit of parents being parents. A police department shouldn't be parents for a kid. We shouldn't be out there enforcing curfews. Daddy and mommy should be — but they're not.

LEN: Mayor Chavez was reported to be pushing a daytime curfew as well. Is that proposal alive and well?

POLISAR: It's pretty much a truancy ordinance, if you will. In

"There are studies that say that the DARE program has no statistically significant impact on whether kids are going to use drugs or not. I really don't give a rat what statistics show. I've got 20 officers in my department who do nothing but teach DARE full time. If nothing else, they're providing positive role models to our youth."

own findings.

LEN: And what becomes of those findings?

POLISAR: Many times he comes to the same conclusions that the Internal Affairs case comes to. If there's a conflict between what the chain of command and the Independent Counsel see as sustainable or not sustainable, they then confer and try to resolve it. If it can't be resolved there, then it comes to me, and I'll meet with the Independent Counsel. If we can't resolve our differences, it goes to the Chief Administrative Officer, who makes the final call for the city. That's happened a few times in the few years I've been Chief, where we just could not agree, and I think that shows that the system works. If we agreed on everything, somebody's going to cock their head and go, "Wait a minute, cahoots, something's wrong here."

I told Sam Walker and Eileen Luna when they interviewed me that I think we have a good system. I welcome the Independent Counsel's review of our stuff. In fact the Independent Counsel kicks back cases to us frequently, where he'll say, "I think these things need to be done that weren't done. You need to interview this witness, or ask these questions." And we do. So his oversight and control of how we investigate cases against police officers works very well, I think.

LEN: One local citizen activist, a Ms. Shay Kozart, spoke out right on the heels of the Walker/Luna report, saying that she knew of no city of comparable size with a worse record of police shootings than Albuquerque. Those sure sound like fighting words.

POLISAR: I would beg to differ with her on that. The fact of the matter is that since I've been Chief, we have reduced our fatal police shootings by over a third with some of the things I've implemented. Beanbag technology came in right after I became Chief. We have a crisis-intervention team fashioned after the very, very successful Memphis police team, to deal with mentally ill people and people who are in crisis. I've invited Ms. Kozart to attend our citizens police academy, and she's accepted. I understand she's very passionate about this subject, but I think

themselves or killing a sibling, by playing with daddy's gun — that's what the program's about. It's trying to educate adults that if you're going to have a gun in the house, keep it secured, keep the bullets separate from the gun, keep them all locked up, keep them where kids can't access them, don't leave them on nightstands, don't leave them in closets, don't put them under the pillows — because they're deadly weapons.

Dropping the ball

LEN: What about criminal firearms violence here that claims the lives of children. Is that a problem to any significant extent in Albuquerque?

POLISAR: You bet. We definitely have our share of juvenile violence.

LEN: Juveniles as both perpetrators and victims?

POLISAR: Juvenile on juvenile. We're struggling with that as a community, although it's definitely not unique to here. This is a different world than it was 20 or 30 years ago. Kids have access to deadly weapons. You're going to get me on a soapbox here about how we as adults have dropped the ball on the youth of our country. It's really sad.

LEN: The IACP recently put its organizational weight behind a project known as "Invest in Kids," which targets at-risk youth. It sounds like an effort to pick up the ball that was previously dropped, as you put it....

POLISAR: I think the challenge for us as a country, though, is going to be to sustain the effort because we're not going to see the results for years to come. We have to invest in kids now, start paying attention to the 5 year olds, and the 7 year olds and the 7 year olds right now. We'll see the benefits 10 years down the road when they're going to be in those crime-prone years. Shame on us if we don't.

LEN: How do you make it politically marketable so that it can be

"There are some elected officials who would like to see me get rid of our two-year college requirement. I keep trying to educate them to the fact that policing is different in the year 1997 than it was in the year 1967. We're policing a much more complex world."

other words, let's put it on the books to allow the police to stop kids on a school day in school hours, if they're out on the streets in Albuquerque, and say, "Hey, what are you doing? Are you legitimately out of school? Do you have a note from your mother? Are you on your way to a doctor's appointment? What are you doing out of school?" That's basically the idea, giving the police the authority to make the stop.

The arithmetic of drugs and crime

LEN: The Southwest is fertile ground for methamphetamine, the current home-grown drug of choice. At the same time, you're not terribly far from the Mexican border, maybe a couple of hundred miles of open land between you and the river. Where do you see Albuquerque's primary drug problem coming from?

POLISAR: We are close to the border, and we're also on a major corridor, Interstate 40, which runs right through our city. Portions of I-40 have been referred to as a cocaine pipeline. Being the first real major city north of the border for distribution to other parts of the country, we're experiencing in the last several years a significant increase in crack cocaine, in gang-bangers from other cities who come to our city to buy that stuff. It's just economics. Other big cities are saturated to the point where gangs can get three or four times the amount for their product in Albuquerque than they could, say, in L.A. So it's simple arithmetic.

We've seen an explosion of crack and crack-related violence in our city in the last five years. In nearly a third of our homicides last year, the victims or the offenders were Cuban immigrants. A significant amount of Cuban criminals relocated to our city, and they brought with them an extremely high rate of violence. We broke a record last year — by a lot. We were averaging about 50 to 55 homicides a year, and we were over 70 last year. So we've been working closely with INS to try to identify some criminals who fall within the guidelines for deportation. That seems to have kind of put things in check this year. For seven or eight months now we've been enjoying declining crime rates here.

LEN: Care to venture a guess as to what's causing the decline?

POLISAR: It varies. If a chief tries to take credit for crime rates going down, he gets hammered the minute it goes up. We've been doing a lot of things in Albuquerque the last few years. We've been trying to give our officers on the street ownership of the areas they're assigned to. We're trying to anchor them to their beats so they can get to know the community they're working for. We're doing that through a computer-aided dispatch system and through call diversions and what have you. We have done a significant amount of networking, building bridges and developing partnerships with a good many of the city's neighborhood associations and business associations. We're teaching our officers the S.A.R.A. model of problem-solving.

We also have some real high-profile things, one of which garnered us a second place in the IACP Chief's Challenge. We put a lot of Federal grant money, matched with our own resources, into high-profile traffic enforcement on our Interstates and in specific areas of the city that have experienced crime problems. We have seen some dramatic decreases. We have reduced fatal accidents by a third in the city this year. We've reduced our property accidents by a significant amount. We've reduced our DWI accidents by a third. I think it's also bleeding over into some reductions into criminal activity because drive around our city now, and they see a lot of red lights and ticket-writing. And the papers and the public have been very, very supportive of it; they felt it was long overdue. Our Interstates were out of control, with people driving 75, 85, 90 miles an hour through our city. Those are state highways and should be under the jurisdiction of the State Police, but they don't have the resources and haven't really done any work on our Interstate highways in the city limits for 30 years. So it's been very, very effective using traffic enforcement as a crime-reduction tool.

LEN: It sounds similar to what was achieved in the way of crime reductions in New York as an offshoot of cracking down on subway fare jumpers.

POLISAR: Yes, although with a difference. And people in our community have heard me talk about New York's successes, about Compstat, which we're trying to replicate here. And all that is is using computer data quickly. They're seeing Compstat in New York as zero tolerance, like I'm going to start having my officers book little old ladies for jaywalking. That's not what we're doing here.

Bringing home the bacon

LEN: In the course of your recent campaign for IACP sixth vice president, you were quoted as saying that your travels around the country on IACP-related business have led to numerous grants and innovations coming to Albuquerque as a result of all your networking. Can you cite some specifics?

POLISAR: Since getting involved with IACP in 1994, on the executive committee and then the legislative committee, and being able to network with a lot of chiefs across the country, one of the first things I did after becoming Chief was to implement beanbag technology. It's been enormously successful, and well received by my community and the press. I can say without reservation that we have saved some lives with beanbag technology in my city. In fact, so much so that we're being looked to by other agencies for guidance on how to do it. It sounds simplistic, but it really is one of the biggest benefits that I've found of being involved in an organization like the IACP: the ability to pick the brains of some of the brightest minds in this world who are actively seeking solutions for police agencies.

LEN: It would seem relatively easy to sell your officers and staff on the desirability of replicating or importing these kinds of ideas and technologies. What about convincing your constituents, the citizens, as to the merits of all of this? Are they getting their money's worth? Do they know what's going on on their behalf?

POLISAR: I believe so. There was an article that The Albuquerque Journal did a few weeks ago — and it wasn't a negative article. They didn't trash me or the department. But I think the ability for me as the chief of the largest police agency in New Mexico to stay abreast of the latest technology and the latest training policies and procedures, and also to have a voice in the law-enforcement community at the highest levels of is a great benefit, and I think people understand that.

Maxing out

LEN: When we last profiled an Albuquerque police chief, about 10 years ago, we were told that the average age of the department was fairly young — around 26. One key factor that was cited for that in was the department's rather sweet retirement package. Does the Albuquerque PD still tend towards the young side?

POLISAR: Oh, absolutely. The average is still the same. And unlike a lot of East Coast departments, where you'll see guys in their 50s walking the beat, you don't see that here.

Our retirement in a nutshell is really very easy to explain. We have 20-year retirement at 70 percent. At 22 years 10 months, it goes to 80 percent, and you don't have to wait till your 65 to draw it. In other words, if you join our department at age 21, at age 41 you can retire at 70 percent of your top three years' salary. Hell, if I lose my job, I'll retire with 73, 74, 75 percent of a chief's salary at age 45.

Once you reach 22 years 10 months on this job, you're losing money by staying because you're maxed out. You're only getting 80 percent. I'm willing to stay beyond that because I believe in this department, I believe in this city, and I think that we're doing some really good things here. I could retire right now; I'd have over 70 percent of a chief's salary, and I could take a job somewhere else, or do some consulting, be an expert witness for attorneys — I could do all those things and double my income.

LEN: Given a sweet retirement package, and salaries and benefits that included a 10-percent increase signed earlier in the year, is that helping to produce a department that is consistently at or near authorized sworn strength?

POLISAR: When I became chief in June of 1994, our authorized strength was about 785, way below what it should be for a city our size, with the calls to service we had. The Mayor who appointed me was successful in getting our authorized strength increased by 150 officers; we went from 780 to 920 overnight. We have the capacity to crank out two cadet classes a year because our classes are five months long, and we don't have the staffing to overlap them. We have an average class size of about 40. Our attrition rate in the department is 5 percent, which means we lose about 40 officers a year to retirement, terminations, to other jobs, to whatever. So one class a year is an attrition class, and one class is a growth class. So given the fact that we grew by 150 officers overnight, it still took us four years to reach 150. With the seating of our current class, we should reach our authorized strength of 928. At that point, I'm going to say, give me more. I think we should have probably 1,100 to 1,200 cops on the Albuquerque police force as of today.

Our city is experiencing an explosion of growth, and we haven't kept pace. Not just from a police perspective. I'm talking about roads and sewers, water and air quality — all that stuff is behind the curve.

Reaching our authorized strength has been tough. We were also paid less than the national average, and I was finding it very difficult to compete against San Antonio and Denver, Tucson and Phoenix and these other Southwestern cities that were competing with me. So the Mayor pushed to get the officers a decent pay raise, which amounted to 10 percent the first year and 5 percent the second year, which brought us into a position where I find it a little easier to compete.

We have take-home police cars; every cop in my department takes a car home. And I'm not just talking about patrol officers; I'm talking about detectives, supervisors, everybody. We've had that perk for 20 years now. If you put a calculator to that, that's \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year in maintenance costs, gas and insurance that you don't have to pay on a privately owned vehicle. So those are some of the perks that help me recruit and compete against other cities.

Standards and goals

LEN: In contrast to some other cities that have rushed headlong into filling a sudden increase in sworn strength, only to pay a heavy price later in misconduct and liability, the Albuquerque PD seems to have taken a more patient and measured approach to filling those 150 vacancies — whether by design or default....

POLISAR: I've taken a lot of heat for that, though. There are some elected officials who would like to see me get rid of our two-year college requirement. They think it's got a disparate impact on minority recruitment. I keep trying to educate them to the fact that policing is different in the year 1997 than it was in the year 1967. We're policing a much more complex world, and we need people who have some education beyond just a high school diploma to be able to deal with that. So we have taken our time. We haven't rushed things, and we haven't relaxed our standards. We do the same job on our backgrounds, our polygraphs and our urine screenings. It's not easy to wear the Albuquerque police uniform. In fact, of everybody who fills out an interest card for our department, 2 percent make it through the front door of our academy. So when you look at how many we have to process to seat a class of 40, what is it, maybe a thousand? Unlike an agency the size of New York, we don't have the ability to bring in hundreds of people. But I'm grateful for that, because I'm very aware of the horror stories that have occurred in other cities, like New Orleans, where they're digging up bodies in cops' yards. So there are some things we've had to struggle with, but I think we've done a real good job of balancing the need to get more cops on the street as quickly as possible while not relaxing our standards.

LEN: And by being tough on standards and exacting in your recruit screening process, one would hope that you are inoculating the department against problems of police misconduct.

POLISAR: Absolutely, and that's a good tie-in. We've learned from other agencies' mistakes.

*Best wishes for the holiday season from
the staff of Law Enforcement News.*



Johnson:

Procuring the right tools for the job

By Ray Johnson

We all watched in horror earlier this year when a tragic, rapid-fire shootout occurred in the course of a North Hollywood bank robbery. With innocent citizens caught in the crossfire, bank robbers armed with automatic weapons fired several rounds of ammunition at anyone in their way. Over a dozen police officers and civilians were injured as a result.

What can we do to keep California's citizens safe from these serious and unexpected acts of violence? Even though crime rates in this state are at their lowest levels since 1968, we all know that we still have a serious crime problem because our officers respond to the scenes, our prosecutors try the cases and we all console the victims.

There is a program that's working in California toward enhancing public safety — the Counter-Drug Procurement Program. Administered by the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, this effort allows state and local law enforcement agencies to obtain equipment to fight illegal drug activities at a significantly reduced cost. It also allows excess military equipment to be secured, at no cost to the receiving law enforcement agency. This excess equipment can also be used to combat terrorism.

Even in its initial stages, with limited staff, the program has already saved California taxpayers over \$7.2 million since it began in June 1995 in equipment purchases and donations. And that's just the beginning.

California is the first state in the nation to develop both components of this program originating from the National Defense Authorization Act. With many criminals using increasingly sophisticated technology, the entire criminal justice community must make full use of all available resources. With the Counter-Drug Procurement Program, front-line law enforcement has access to state-of-the-art communication equipment, weaponry, automobiles, trucks and aircraft.

Since the equipment is offered at no cost or considerably reduced prices to law enforcement agencies, many of these agencies can now obtain much-needed crime-fighting tools that might have previously been beyond their budget capabilities.

Take the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Since March 1996, it has saved roughly \$425,000 through this program. This cost savings is passed on directly to taxpayers benefiting from enhanced public safety. Not only are we increasing the safety of civilians and officers, we're also maximizing precious public resources.

This technology helps on another front we're battling: the expanding problem of methamphetamine labs. When three children, barely old enough to walk, are killed in a meth lab explosion by their own mother, we must stop and take notice, and take action.

This situation is not isolated. The Department of Justice estimates that approximately 850 clandestine methamphetamine labs were raided in 1996, up significantly from 465 labs in the previous year.

The Counter-Drug Procurement Program is already serving as a powerful strategy in knock-

ing down these labs and keeping drug dealers where they belong: behind bars. Using choppers equipped with highly sophisticated thermal-imaging systems, previously unannounced methamphetamine operations can be observed and detected. Law enforcement agencies across the state are already seeing significant results with this technology.

Besides apprehending criminals, officers' lives are being saved through this program. During a recent drug raid, Kevlar helmets were worn by Department of Justice agents. During the raid, one of the agents was shot directly in the helmet, with no injury. Without the helmet, the bullet from the drug dealer would have proved fatal. As a result, these helmets are now part of their basic assault equipment.

Some individuals might be concerned about increasing law enforcement's arsenal. Why do officers need weapons previously used in com-

bat? Look at the North Hollywood incident. Do we want our first line of defense, police officers, in situations where they're outgunned, unprotected and ill-equipped? Of course not.

From a policy perspective and from the citizens' perspective, the Office of Criminal Justice Planning's Counter-Drug Procurement Program makes sense. In order to protect the public, officers must have the right tools. Before another police officer, firefighter, baby, your neighbor or mine dies at the hands of a criminal without a conscience, let's recognize good policy when we see it. Let's maximize what's working in California to keep our citizens safe. We need to put the resources where they belong.

(Ray Johnson is the executive director of the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning in California and former police chief of Inglewood.)

Moore:

Florida has gangs surrounded — with on-line intelligence-sharing

By James T. Moore

As the phenomenon of gangs continues to spread rapidly, every effort is being made to improve the exchange of information among local, state and Federal law enforcement agencies. The multi-jurisdictional impact of criminal street gang crimes requires a statewide system that will allow agencies to track gang members, document gang activity and exchange information in a timely way.

In the past, criminal street gang information has been stored in the intelligence files and systems of individual law enforcement agencies, as there was no centralized repository for such information. In 1995, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement conducted a survey of local law enforcement agencies in an effort to examine the presence of criminal street gangs throughout the state. In addition to providing information on gangs in their jurisdictions, survey respondents

were asked to offer recommendations to combat the gang problem. The most prevalent recommendation called for the implementation of a statewide system for tracking gangs, providing access to local agencies through a centralized data base.

To this end, FDLE coordinated an effort to establish a statewide system. In September 1996, a meeting was held with gang investigators and analysts from around the state, including representatives from the Florida Gang Investigators Association and the Dade, Broward and Tampa Bay Multi-Agency Gang Task Forces. Participants identified and defined the data elements necessary for a statewide system and viewed demonstrations of several software programs in use in Florida. An advisory committee of gang investigators was asked to select a software program and make a recommendation for the statewide system. This committee chose the Regional Apprehension

Program (RAP) Gang Module, developed by the South Florida Investigative Support Center, to capture gang intelligence and investigative information.

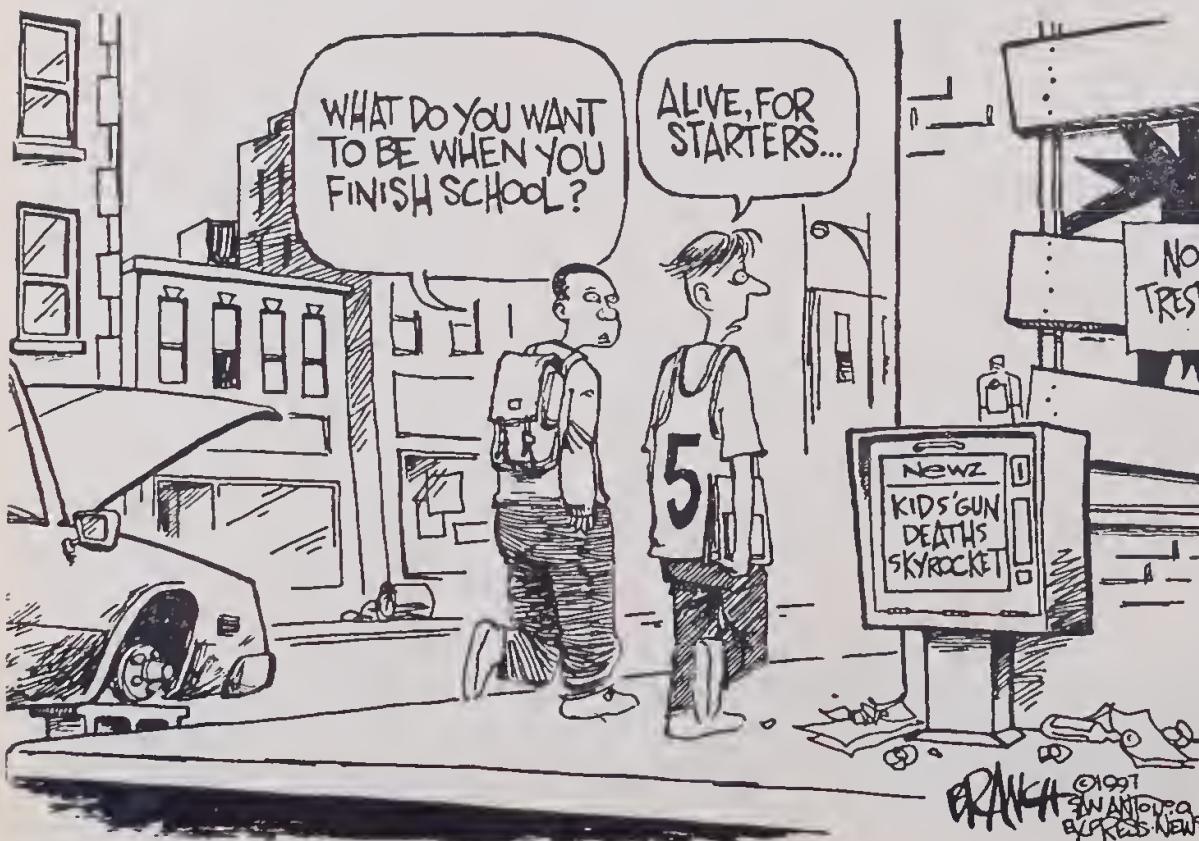
The intelligence data base portion of the system will capture information on criminal street gangs, their members and associates. Local law enforcement agencies are the "owners" of this information, and these agencies are responsible for entries and quality control. FDLE is responsible for the coordination and support of the statewide system. Issues pertaining to the collection, storage and dissemination of data, identification of user agencies and policies for agency participation are determined by a Gang Policy Board.

The RAP Gang Module is a specialized tracking system that captures the following information: on-screen entry/viewing of subject profile; on-screen entry/viewing of gang profile; on-screen entry/viewing of photo/video; automatic record associations; automatic gang status assignment (based on Chapter 874, Florida Statutes); on-screen viewing of activity details and activity codes, and project assignments.

The system requirements for the RAP gang module are fairly basic: 32-bit operating system (Windows 95 or Windows NT); minimum 100MB hard drive; 16MB or better of RAM; minimum 486 processor; connectivity via FDLE Criminal Justice Network, with 28.8 modem or dedicated line; RAP 3.0 software; Crystal Reports 5.0.

Our goal for a statewide gang information network is for it to meet the needs of both the gang investigator and the uniformed police officer on the street. In addition to gang intelligence and investigative information in the data base, a "hot file" of identified gang members will be created in the Florida Criminal Information Center system, providing officers with immediate safety warnings of the presence of potentially dangerous criminal street gang members. This hot file will contain basic identification on subjects who meet the statutory criteria for classification as criminal street gang members, and will serve as a pointer index by providing agency contact information for each subject entry. The hot file will be fed automatically when a gang member entry is made in the intelligence system, and can be accessed by any criminal justice agency with an FCIC terminal.

(James T. "Tim" Moore is Commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. For more information on this program, contact: Phil Ramer, Special Agent in Charge, FDLE Office of Statewide Intelligence, (850) 488-0586.)



Birmingham looks to Bratton for PD help

Birmingham, Ala., Mayor Richard Arrington plans to implement many of the wide-ranging recommendations recently made by a consulting firm headed by former New York City police commissioner William Bratton, saying they are vital to improving the efficiency and crime-fighting capabilities of the city's 900-officer Police Department.

Arrington said many of the recommendations — including the adoption of key precepts of the Compstat anti-crime program Bratton developed in New York — would aid his goal of reducing crime in Alabama's largest city by 15 percent by the end of 1997. Elements of the innovative crime-fighting approach, which have contributed to unprecedented decreases in crime in New York, have been adopted in a dozen U.S. cities this year alone.

But the report by First Security Consulting Inc., Bratton's New York City-based firm, said it is unlikely that Birmingham will achieve that much of a drop in its crime rate this year, given the current lack of a coherent crime-fighting strategy, inadequate technological resources and low pay and inadequate promotional opportunities that have led to poor morale in the ranks.

Crime in Birmingham had fallen by about 7 percent through October, police say. Last year, it fell by 11 percent.

A spokesman for the Mayor, Charles Crockrom, told Law Enforcement News last month that Arrington wants to implement several of the key recommendations in the report released on Oct. 16.

Arrington was awaiting a response to the report by Police Chief Johnnie Johnson on the feasibility of the recommendations, he said. The Chief sub-

mitted the review Nov. 14, said Police Department spokeswoman Sgt. LaFaree King, but its contents had not been made public as LENO went to press.

Willie Huff, director of the Urban Development Group, a nonprofit consulting firm hired by the city to oversee anti-crime strategies, says he expects many of the recommendations to turn up in the anti-crime plan the group is now formulating.

Huff said a review of the department by UDG earlier this year identified 21 critical issues affecting police performance — 19 of which later turned up in the First Security Consulting report.

First Security Consulting, which sent a four-member team headed by Bratton to Birmingham, was hired by the Birmingham Police Foundation, an arm of the city's Crime Commission founded in June to raise money for police and anti-crime programs.

Arrington said he will push for a pay raise, saying he believes it will improve morale. "As people see these things being implemented, hopefully it will help with morale. A little bit more money in the pocketbook always helps my morale," he said.

The First Security Consulting report portrayed a police department hobbled by poor morale, a lack of focus in its crime-fighting efforts and poor access to innovative technology. Police officers "believe they are underappreciated, underpaid, underequipped, unfairly disciplined, passed over for promotions and inadequately trained. They are deeply dissatisfied with the department's operational and administrative practices."

But the report also said the agency has the leadership needed to reverse problems and marshal resources and personnel to fight crime effectively.

Elements of the Compstat program that the Birmingham PD most likely will adopt include: the implementation of a computer-driven, crime-analysis program to more effectively deploy personnel; conducting weekly meetings of top commanders to gauge efforts at the precinct level; decentralizing the

command structure and putting more responsibility for crime control on commanders in the city's four precincts, and upgrading technology, including the installation of mobile-data terminals in patrol cars.

"These are sensible recommendations that would improve public safety," Huff told LENO. "They've definitely had an impact in other cities where it's been adopted, so hopefully, they will do the same in Birmingham."

The Jefferson County Personnel Board is studying the possibility of increases in officers' base salaries, which now stand at \$24,065 — thousands of dollars lower than what their counterparts in some neighboring suburbs are paid — as well as raises for those with five years or more on the job. That review was expected to be complete last month.

Arrington said he will push for a pay raise, saying he believes it will improve morale. "As people see these things being implemented, hopefully it will help with morale. A little bit more money in the pocketbook always helps my morale," he said.

The First Security Consulting report portrayed a police department hobbled by poor morale, a lack of focus in its crime-fighting efforts and poor access to innovative technology. Police officers "believe they are underappreciated, underpaid, underequipped, unfairly disciplined, passed over for promotions and inadequately trained. They are deeply dissatisfied with the department's operational and administrative practices."

But the report also said the agency has the leadership needed to reverse problems and marshal resources and personnel to fight crime effectively.

"There is a strong core of capable leaders who know policing well and who want to make significant changes. There are many dedicated and skilled police officers who, despite their frustrations, are eager for an opportunity to attack the crime problem more strategically and effectively."

In order to move in that direction,

the department must undertake a reorganization that utilizes Compstat principles, the report said. "Although 81.5 percent [of patrol officers and supervisors] said that 'crime is out of control in many of Birmingham's neighborhoods,' 87.4 percent asserted it can be greatly reduced if the proper changes take place in this department."

Under the gun, Memphis tries its own modified Compstat approach

Taking a page from the New York City Police Department, Memphis Police Director Walter Winfrey has begun his agency's own Compstat meetings to plot and analyze crime trends in individual precincts.

The Compstat (for computer statistics) meetings come in response to a challenge earlier this year by Mayor Willie Herenton, who told police brass that he detected a "laid-back attitude" in the department. Herenton was concerned because the city's crime rate was continuing to rise, while crime was decidedly on the wane elsewhere around the nation.

Although the Memphis Police Department does not have the computer software that will allow it track crime on a daily basis, it is in the process of redesigning reports filed by uniformed officers for more in-depth, detailed information. Information entered into the department's three-year-old, \$1.65-million Spillman system can be retrieved and run through add-on software for a visual breakdown of crimes at fairly close to real-time.

"We are getting to the point where we are able to retrieve crime patterns in a timely fashion," Winfrey told The Memphis Commercial Appeal in October. "Eventually (with further improvements), the shift coming on duty will know what happened on the previous shift."

So far, only some of the city's six precincts can do their own crime analyses. The improved system of entering reports is not in place everywhere.

In addition to analyzing crime

trends via computer, Winfrey also intends to hold police commanders accountable for crime and disorder in their precincts. Precinct commanders will be rewarded or punished according to their performance. As Winfrey told top police brass during a recent meeting, "Don't get too comfortable."

At future meetings, Winfrey told commanders, they will present him with the most recent numbers and explain what they are doing about them. Half the commanders will meet at the beginning of the month; the other half at the end.

"The precinct commanders are going to run the meetings," Winfrey said.

Increasing arrests in the precincts, Winfrey believes, is the key to eventually reducing the number of criminal incidents. One measure that appears to have worked during the first six months of the year are the use of flex units, such as the SCAT (Street Crime Abatement Team), to saturate neighborhoods that are a breeding ground for crime.

While quarterly numbers released in May showed a continued rise in crime, August's figures showed a slight but nonetheless significant decrease in overall major crime and in most individual categories of major crimes. Arrests were also up by 34 percent in the first six months of 1997, as compared to the same period a year earlier.

The figures shown to the brass by Winfrey, which were current to Sept. 21, showed rape continuing to rise, while homicide, burglary and car theft had decreased.

Innovative programs to tackle OC, gangs & victims honored

Some police agencies just naturally seem to take innovation to a whole new level, as the International Association of Chiefs of Police acknowledged recently with the presentation of its prestigious Webber Seavey Awards.

Two Canadian police agencies and the Los Angeles Police Department received the annual honors, which are presented to law enforcement agencies for innovative and effective community-based programs.

The awards were presented to officials of the LAPD, the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police Service in Hamilton, Ont., and the Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit, a provincial agency headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia, at the annual IACP conference held in Orlando, Fla., in late October.

"These programs, as well as all of the programs considered for the Webber Seavey Award, dramatically illustrate the commitment of law enforcement agencies around the world to develop and implement creative solutions to some of our most challenging policing and social problems," said Frankfort, Ill., Police Chief Darrell L. Sanders, who recently concluded a one-year term as IACP president. "They also represent a substantial professional contribution which can be used by other agencies as model programs."

The Hamilton-Wentworth Regional

Police was honored for its victim-services program, which it began in 1992 to provide increased emotional and psychological support to crime victims 24 hours a day. More than 80 volunteers were recruited and trained by police to work alongside sworn officers to help victims access a variety of support services. The agency also began specialized services for victims of particular crimes, including robbery, domestic violence and stalking.

Since the program began, it has provided help to more than 3,000 clients.

A community policing program in Los Angeles that focused on a gang-plagued neighborhood was also honored. The effort in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood began with a zero-tolerance, anti-crime program that included increased foot and vehicle patrols, graffiti and trash cleanups and racial tolerance courses for local children.

In the first five months, more than 100 gang suspects were rounded up, prompting an exodus of other gang members from the neighborhood. Officials say Part I crimes in the area have fallen 13 percent since the program began.

The Vancouver-based Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit was singled out for its efforts to identify and contain new forms of organized crime emerging in British Columbia. The unit, which was designed to develop aggress-

sive strategies to combat and suppress organized crime, includes a special investigative team that monitors crime groups and a training program for patrol officers.

The effort also includes a task force that coordinates interagency efforts throughout the province and meets with communities to keep them apprised of progress.

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Is the Chicago PD serious about spotting problem cops?

FOP forces abandonment of computer program that got a little too personal

Continued from Page 1

were you married while you were on the job or did you get divorced after being on the job.

"This is personal and it's none of their business," said Nolan. "It doesn't make any difference if a guy decides to walk down a dark alley at three in the morning whether he's married, single or what."

Nolan said the union's opposition to BrainMaker was lodged after consultations with "computer experts from around the country.... Some said what [police officials] wanted it to do just wasn't feasible; you just couldn't do it."

The department could better monitor potential "problem" officers by adding more supervisors, Nolan added. "We have good supervisors, but we don't have enough of them," he said, pointing to the ongoing controversy over promotional exams that resulted in many vacancies in the sergeant and lieutenant ranks.

The Police Department's abandonment of BrainMaker has prompted some observers to criticize how serious it is identifying and helping cops who might be at risk for misconduct.

"When you see them dismantle the computer system, you just have to ask if they really want to deal with the problem. They had a solution, but didn't use it," said G. Flint Taylor, an attorney

done after discussions with union officials to iron out objections.

The Tribune reported, however, that BrainMaker had generated lists of potential problem officers every three

"If you had been accused of stealing money on traffic stops 15 times and we couldn't prove it, you probably are doing it."

— Chicago PD internal affairs Cmdr. Michael Hoke

affiliated with the People's Law Office who has handled police misconduct cases for more than 20 years.

Raymond Risley, chief of the CPD's Organized Crime Division, oversaw the Internal Affairs unit when BrainMaker was introduced three years ago. He told The Tribune that media reports about BrainMaker distorted the department's "humanitarian" efforts to help troubled officers and helped heighten FOP suspicions.

"The test run we did, we thought they were right on target. But that's as far as it went," said Risley, who added that the department may yet revive BrainMaker, but that it would only be

months, although it is unclear what purpose the department had in mind for them, citing a July 1996 deposition by current Internal Affairs Cmdr. Michael Hoke in a police-misconduct lawsuit. Another officer deposed in the case claimed that the lists were deleted in September 1995, after Taylor had requested them.

Hoke noted in his deposition that unsubstantiated claims were used in the effort to weed out rogue officers — giving fuel to the FOP's opposition to program. "...If you had been accused of stealing money on traffic stops 15 times and we couldn't prove it, you probably are doing it."

Law Enforcement News

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Words to the wise: PIOs may be held liable for defamatory statements

Continued from Page 1

that the court rehear the case, said Jones, who speculated that it's unlikely the court will agree to do so. Should the court refuse, Jones and Whittington will ask that the case be taken up by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"It concerns us," Jones said of the ruling. "We don't believe [Smith] passed along the information maliciously. We think he based it on good information about what the subject of the investigation had been doing."

Jones said the ruling underscores the notion that PIOs depend on the veracity of investigators' accounts to ensure accurate reporting of an agency's activities. "We have to rely on what they tell us as being truthful and accurate," he said.

Baton Rouge, La., police spokesman Cpl. Don Kelly, who is vice president of the 400-member National Information Officers Association, told Law Enforcement News that the court backs his belief that only professional information officers or spokespersons should be allowed to make statements about investigations.

"There's a constant running battle of thought in law enforcement about whether you should centralize information through an information officer, [an arrangement] most of the media hate or whether you should decentralize and allow all of your people to make their own statements — as long as they're involved in the case as investigators and have firsthand knowledge."

Kelly, a former radio and television reporter, agreed with Jones that the ruling could stanch the flow of information to the public, at least in Louisiana. "Some administrators are already predisposed against a free and open flow of information, and this will give them a reason or excuse to clamp down even further," he said.

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Wheely big show: Bicycle safety issues are examined in a new video aimed at children ages 7 to 13. The production, from Crime Prevention Resources in Medford, Ore., focuses on a young cyclist to instruct children on helmets, bike maintenance, traffic and hand signals. Contact: Steve Phillips, Crime Prevention Resources, (541) 779-0016; e-mail: esandr2@aol.com.

State of the profession: On Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 10 P.M. EST, the public television program "Straight Talk With Derek McGinty" will present a new, one-hour program that takes a no-holds-barred look at the state of American policing. Produced by WETA-TV in Washington, D.C., and airing on PBS stations nationwide, "Good Cop, Bad Cop" features discussion by a panel of experts and questions from a studio audience about divisions that persist between police and the public. Consult local TV listings.

Shake it up: Microtremors found in the voice that reflect the level of stress in the human body are the basis for a new type of lie detector, the Digital Voice Stress Analyzer, created by The Diogenes Group Inc. of Fairfax, Va. The Lantern, as the machine is called, uses proprietary software to extract and characterize microtremor waveforms. These can be produced and displayed by the six-pound instrument and interpreted by a voice stress analyst to reveal the relative level of stress in the subject. Contact The Diogenes Group website at WWW.diogenesgroup.com; or call toll-free (888) 619-4973.

An ounce of prevention: A new program aimed at deterring first-time juvenile offenders from more serious crimes and serving as a sentencing option is being implemented in Indianapolis by the Hudson Institute's Crime Control Policy Center. The Restorative Justice Conferences endeavor to make participants understand the profound impact of their crimes by meeting with their victims at a series of conferences attended with their families and authority figures such as teachers, coaches, or ministers, under the facilitation of a police officer. Contact: Gail McDonald, Hudson Crime Control Policy Center, (317) 549-4115.

Breath of life: Recent studies find that professionals or lay persons trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation can begin to forget their instruction in as little as three months. With CPR Prompt PROPAK, life-saving skills can be reviewed with a system that combines three elements: practice mannequins; a videotape detailing basic life support skills; and CPR Prompt Rescue and Practice Aid, a portable voice prompter. The product, developed by County Line Limited, is \$199.95. Call: County Line Limited Health and Safety Products, 1-800-391-4277.

Paper chase: "Police Quarterly," a new, peer-reviewed journal to be published jointly by the Police Executive Research Forum and the Police Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice

Sciences beginning in 1998, is seeking a wide variety of manuscripts, including empirical research, essays, theoretical pieces, comparative analyses, critiques, innovative program descriptions, debates, and book reviews. Contact: Gary Cordner, Editor, 467 Stratton, Department of Police Studies, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475-3131. Guidelines for submissions can be obtained by e-mailing the editor at padcordn@acs.eku.edu.

Labor pains: Learn how to effectively guide your labor organization with "Police Association Power, Politics, and Confrontation: A Guide for the Successful Police Labor Leader," by John Burpo, Ron DeLord and Michael Shannon. The authors bring with them 60 years of experience in bargaining contracts, representing law enforcement officers and leading state and local political battles. To order (\$64.95 hb, \$49.95 pb), contact: Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Ltd., 2600 South First

St., P.O. Box 19265, Springfield, IL 62794-9265.

Required reading: While community policing has been embraced by residents and police agencies alike, its success has been limited. A promising model for providing the services that communities demand are Neighborhood Police Teams, which focus on "results and meaningful impact, rather than process and undirected output," according to a new publication from the Po-

lice Executive Research Forum. "Neighborhood Team Policing: Organizational Opportunities and Obstacles." Another recent publication from PERF, "The Force Factor: Measuring Police Use of Force Relative to Suspect Resistance," examines the use of force based on data from police departments in Miami and Eugene/Springfield, Ore. Contact: PERF, 1120 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 930, Washington, D.C. 20036. Phone: 1-888-202-4563.

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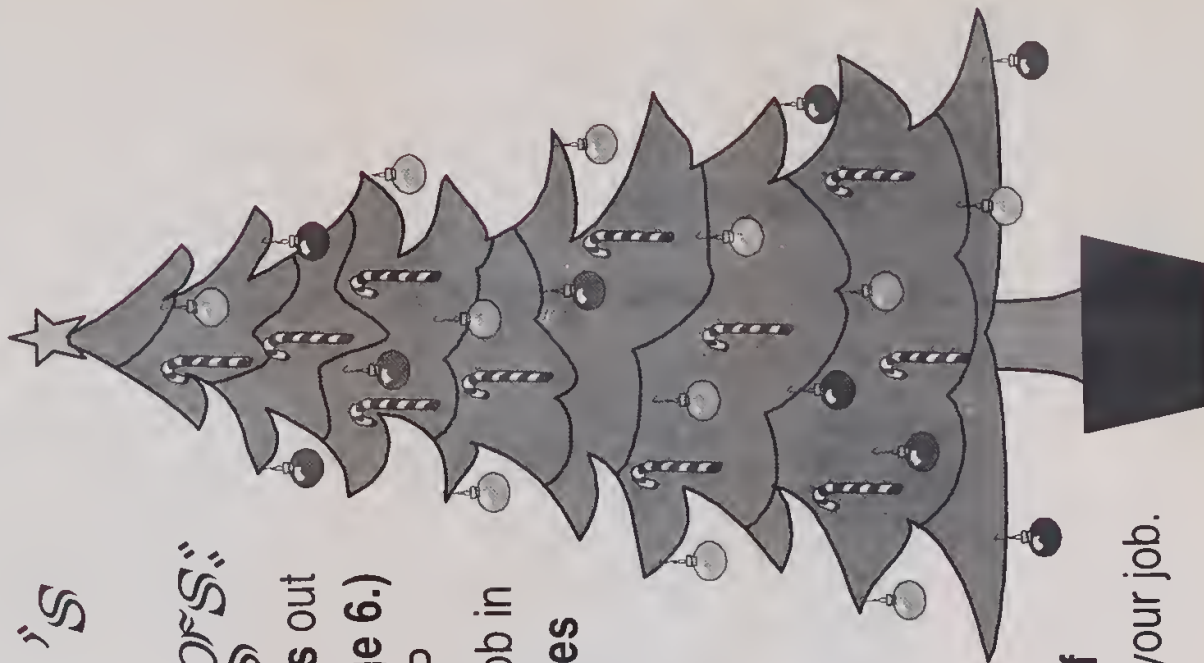
Rodriguez breezes out of Windy City. (Page 6.)

Polisar lands IACP slot, loses chief's job in Albuquerque. (Pages 6, 8.)

Miami's elite drug unit sent packing. (Page 4.)

LA transit force closes up shop. (Page 4.)

Smoking on or off duty can cost you your job. (Page 1.)



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— Miami Police Chief Donald Warshaw, ordering a special narcotics unit disbanded amid the controversy over a shooting incident. (Story, Page 1.)